More than 400,000 people in Franklin County struggled to meet basic needs.

Many thousands more were one paycheck, one crisis, away from falling into poverty.

Disparities were growing. Life expectancies could vary as much as 20 years between neighborhoods.

In 2019, 18,000 Franklin County households were evicted, twice as many as New York City.

Unemployment: 3.7% in February - 10.6% in July

Food Insecurity: Food insecurity rates are up from 14% to 23% in Ohio. Mid-Ohio Food Collective is serving 23,000 more families, a 55% increase.

Evictions: Approximately 78,000 households are at risk for being evicted in January 2021 when the CDC moratorium ends.

Education: More than a month after learning first went virtual, Columbus City Schools had no contact with 22% of students. Thousands of children are missing out on face-to-face learning, structure and regular meals.

An estimated 40-45% of early learning providers, or 100,000 child care spots, will close in Ohio due to the pandemic, impacting the crucial early learning of thousands of children and the stability of their families.

Before COVID-19

After COVID-19

More than 31,000 masks and over 30,000 pairs of gloves distributed

United Way’s COVID-19 Response

United Way of Central Ohio has been responding to local needs and our community’s most pressing problems for nearly 100 years. COVID-19 is a new challenge for us, but we’re up for it. In fact, United Way was built for this.

In March, we launched our COVID-19 Community Response Fund. By June, we distributed more than $1.5 million to 70 local nonprofits.

More than 286,115 people served by 51 nonprofits

32 nonprofits reported helping 80,325 new first-time clients impacted by the crisis

27 nonprofits were able to retain 593 staff

11 nonprofits reported helping over 74,240 people from disproportionately affected populations

More than 31,000 masks and over 30,000 pairs of gloves distributed

The consequences of COVID-19 are taking a toll on our community’s safety net. Our local nonprofits are struggling to keep up with the demand.

70% of nonprofits have suspended programs or are operating in limited capacity due to COVID-19.

90% also reported increased costs associated with the pandemic.

Local health and human service nonprofits responding to our survey lost approximately $40 million in revenue as of July.

Due to COVID-19, many nonprofits have had to eliminate staff members.
Roy Clark  Executive Director of NNEMAP
Located in the Milo-Grogan neighborhood, NNEMAP has seen many first-time families at its food pantry, and now serves people six days a week from any ZIP code to meet the growing need. Like most nonprofits, NNEMAP has experienced declining revenues and rising costs during this crisis.

Genesis says he was introverted and preferred staying home before he joined the Columbus Urban League's I Am My Brother's Keeper (IAMBK) program four years ago. Lorenzo, his IAMBK mentor, recognized him as a natural born leader who needed nurturing and opportunities. The program provided just that and more for Genesis, who will soon become a junior mentor himself.

Charlene and her husband are essential workers who were called back to work shortly after COVID-19 struck. The YMCA Hilltop Educare Center, where their daughter was enrolled, became an emergency pandemic center and was able to continue providing safe, affordable, quality care that provided stability for the family.

This crisis has affected all of us.
It has also highlighted the significant inequities across our community and nation.
There is much to do in the months ahead. We need everyone who can to do their part to make central Ohio the community we need it to be — equitable, respectful and providing opportunity for all.

Together, we can provide relief to help our community recover and rebuild.

Your gift to our Community Response Fund:
• helps meet the urgent basic needs of families impacted by COVID-19
• provides resources and opportunities for children to achieve student success
• supports our neighbors disproportionately affected by this pandemic
• strengthens our community’s safety net for a more resilient central Ohio

In a year that has been hard for many, you can make a difference.
GIVE TODAY to provide relief — and hope.

Want to lead the way for a more equitable community?
Visit liveunitedcentralohio.org/leadershipgroup/leadersunited