

## ROLE OF THE UNITED WAY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS LEAD PARTNER



The lead partner of a United Way Community School is an entity whose vision and mission matches that of the Community School model and can point to specific services and strategies in their resource pool that will enhance opportunities for students and families to learn and be successful.

### Lead Partners

- Employ the Community School coordinator/director
- Commit to financial, resource, emotional and collegial support of this collaborative work.
- Connect specifically to the initiative and particular schools through a formal memorandum of agreement.
- Often employ additional staffing to support the work in Community Schools.

### Requirements

Lead partners must commit to hire a full-time staff person with a title of Community School coordinator/director. This person will work directly in the partnered public school building as the key individual focused on transforming the operations of the building to fully implement the Community School model. Daily oversight is provided by the school principal, with regular formal supervision offered by the lead partner and regular coaching and technical assistance provided by United Way.

Lead partners must provide full benefits to this staff person, as well as, regular formal supervision and opportunities for additional training and professional development.

Lead partners must make themselves part of the culture of the school as it transforms into a Community School. This is done through participation in:

- Monthly core team meetings
- Monthly leadership team meetings once a team has been established
- Family literacy and other whole school events and activities
- Provision of programs and services to serve the student/family population

Lead partners seek and secure additional funding for programming and infrastructure in their Community Schools. They also commit to realigning current programming to their Community School sites, demonstrating shared commitment to intentionally focusing resources to create maximum impact for students and families.

Lead partners champion the work happening at their Community Schools and within the larger initiative. They speak to the needs

that exist for kids and families and share how their organization is strategically addressing those needs through collaborative partnership.

### Expectations

Lead partners sign a memorandum of agreement in which they receive funding from United Way to support the primary part of the salary of the Community School coordinator/director and often a part-time secondary position in a Community School. The lead partner is responsible for contributing the remaining portion of salary and benefits towards the full-time Community School coordinator/director and the remaining costs associated with any part-time position.

Lead partners must submit an actual budget expenditures form at the end of each school year to identify additional monies contributed to each Community School above the MOA amount.

Lead partners must participate in on-going data gathering and reporting, submit quarterly data, as well as, a year-end final report that outlines the work done, the programs and services secured to address the identified needs, the impact of that work, and intentions for the following year(s). These reporting pieces are completed by the Community School coordinator.

### Benefits

Lead partners connect their brand, work and services to a dynamic systems change initiative that is winning national recognition. They gain deeper entry into public school systems, broadening their customer base, reach and impact.

Lead partners can effectively leverage this work to secure additional dollars to support current programs or expand the scope of services they offer. Partnering effectively also provides opportunities for innovative research and practices to be discovered and validated.

### Other Notables

Community Schools are about changing systems and creating more and seamless opportunities for children and families. They are about delivering services differently to the various populations engaged in the public education system and the community. Lead partners who clearly share mission and vision with this work instantly see how being connected to it creates win-win scenarios on various levels that ultimately all lead to more successful outcomes for students, families and communities.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

United Way of the  
Greater Lehigh Valley

UnitedWayGLV.org

LIVE UNITED

