

NEWS RELEASE



UnitedHealthcare Donates \$250,000 to West Virginia University

Funding is part of UnitedHealthcare's \$11.4 million in Empowering Health grants focused on expanding access to care and addressing the social determinants of health for people in underserved communities

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (July 22, 2021) — UnitedHealthcare, a UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH) company, is awarding a \$250,000 [Empowering Health](#) grant to West Virginia University (WVU) to expand access to care for uninsured individuals and underserved communities.

In total, UnitedHealthcare is donating \$11.4 million through Empowering Health grants across 18 states and the District of Columbia. The grants will assist individuals and families experiencing challenges from food insecurity, social isolation and behavioral health issues, and support local health promotion and health literacy efforts.

The Empowering Health grant will help expand a WVU research study providing and testing a suite of online tools — including interventions, gamified solutions and chatbots — to address depressive disorders in people without previously diagnosed conditions. The funding will be used to recruit underserved individuals to participate in the study.

“Social and economic factors have a profound impact on achieving and maintaining good health,” said Joe Ochipinti, CEO, UnitedHealthcare – Mid-Atlantic. “Through Empowering Health, we’re working with West Virginia University to provide West Virginians with greater access to essential resources in high-risk and high-need communities so they can live healthier lives.”

Good health encompasses more than simply visiting a doctor’s office. According to the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, nearly 80% of what influences a person’s health relates to nonmedical issues, such as food, housing, transportation and the financial means to pay for basic daily needs. And for so many, the global pandemic has caused additional social and economic challenges that continue to affect healthy behaviors and exacerbate health disparities.

Since launching its Empowering Health commitment in 2018, UnitedHealthcare has now invested more than \$40 million in Empowering Health grants reaching more than 6 million people through partnerships with community-based organizations in 29 states.

Additionally, UnitedHealth Group has invested more than \$500 million in affordable housing communities since 2011, partnered with food banks and meal-delivery services, and in 2019 joined with the American Medical Association to standardize how social determinants of health data is collected and used to create more holistic care plans.

About UnitedHealthcare

UnitedHealthcare is dedicated to helping people live healthier lives and making the health system work better for everyone by simplifying the health care experience, meeting consumer health and wellness needs, and sustaining trusted relationships with care providers. In the United States, UnitedHealthcare offers the full spectrum of health benefit programs for individuals, employers, and Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and contracts directly with more than 1.3 million physicians and care professionals, and 6,500 hospitals and other care facilities nationwide. The company also provides health benefits and delivers care to people through owned and operated health care facilities in South America. UnitedHealthcare is one of the businesses of UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH), a diversified health care company. For more information, visit UnitedHealthcare at www.uhc.com or follow [@UHC](https://twitter.com/UHC) on Twitter.

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