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## **UCare Foundation grants respond to community needs during the pandemic**

***More than \$2 million invested in supporting  
community health and wellbeing***

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 4, 2022 — As communities continue to be impacted by the pandemic, the [UCare Foundation](#) has awarded grants throughout Minnesota specifically focused on supporting food insecurity around the state and continued assistance for programs addressing social isolation, immigrant wellbeing, health and racial equity, and workforce development. The grants fund programs addressing prevailing health disparities exacerbated during the pandemic. \$1 million of the funds are allocated to a county grant pool for investing in counties across the state and providing a timely response to the changing needs of counties. The UCare Foundation is a community-directed initiative of UCare supporting innovative services, education, community outreach and research.

“After assessing where we could make the most significant difference in supporting Minnesota communities, we responded with support for programs that help the community thrive during these challenging times,” said Ghita Worcester, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer. “The 2022 grants address some of our communities’ most pressing concerns, such as food insecurity, social isolation, housing, and health and racial equity.”

### **Snapshot of UCare-sponsored programs across Minnesota**

#### **Health and racial equity**

[Minnesota Medical Association Health Equity Project](#) to mitigate bias among physicians and health care professionals and support the adoption of [anti-racist cultures](#) among Minnesota health care providers

[Circles of Health & Wellbeing program](#) to empower and inspire immigrant and refugee women to embrace their own health and wellbeing, and improve their and their families’ long-term health and wellbeing

[Somali Community Resettlement program](#) in [Olmsted County](#) support to increase the program's capacity to serve and provide health care programming to new immigrant seniors, families and individuals

### **Senior health**

[Lutheran Social Service Senior Companions](#) visits, support and advocacy to reduce social isolation for aging neighbors in the Twin Cities, Brainerd and Duluth and offer assistance such as transportation to medical/dental appointments and help with errands

### **Workforce development**

Support for the [Minnesota Hospital Association initiative](#) to address [health care staff shortages](#) by developing a standardized roadmap and toolkit of best practices to develop health care organizations' workforce across the continuum of care

### **Food insecurity**

[Second Harvest Heartland Covid response to end hunger](#) through free meal distributions from the [Minnesota Central Kitchen \(MCK\)](#) caterers and restaurateurs

[Twin Cities Mobile Market](#), a [Food Group](#) program bringing healthy, affordable fresh foods to Twin Cities neighborhoods at festivals and other events in the Twin Cities – at times paired with free health screenings aboard UCare's Healthmobile

### **About UCare**

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 600,000 members throughout Minnesota and parts of western Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver Medicare, Medicaid and Individual & Family health plans.

The health plan addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for 12 consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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