



people powered health plans

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UCare Foundation awards more than \$2M to improve community health across Minnesota

***Focus on local needs, mental health,
health equity, immigrant health and aging***

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 18, 2020 — The [UCare Foundation](#) has awarded more than 25 grants throughout Minnesota for health improvement initiatives benefitting underserved populations. The grants fund programs addressing prevailing health disparities in the state; they also provide needed resources for counties and providers. The UCare foundation is a community-directed initiative of UCare focused on supporting innovative services, education, community outreach and research.

“We reached out to our community stakeholders to understand where UCare could have the greatest impact on closing gaps in care and improving social risk factors affecting the health of our members,” said Ghita Worcester, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer. “The resulting grants exemplify how we work with counties, community organizations and providers to make a real difference in improving the health of our members and their communities.”

Snapshot of UCare-sponsored programs across Minnesota

Local needs

[U Health & Learning Express mobile service in Carver County](#) to provide holistic health care and learning opportunities for vulnerable residents where they live

[Community Paramedic home visit programs](#) with [Fairview Health System](#) and [North Memorial Health](#) addressing gaps in care for patients not served effectively through traditional primary care

[Crisis Funding](#) for [Open Cities Health Center in St. Paul](#) to enable this safety net clinic to continue providing needed services to UCare and community members in Ramsey County

Mental health

[Postpartum depression support group in Duluth](#) offering a safe, supporting space for pregnant and postpartum women to receive connection, education and referrals and [enhanced peer recovery services for pregnant women using substances](#) as part of [Hennepin County's Project Child](#)

[Promoting mental health and health equity in Dakota County](#) through funding for school projects addressing substance use, physical activity, nutrition, suicide prevention and first aid training

[Medication Assisted Treatment and mental health services](#) to reduce opioid use and address underlying mental health conditions among underserved and inmate populations in [Ramsey County](#), [Scott County](#) and the [Washington County Jail](#)

[Mental health redesign](#) at [Allina Health](#) to bolster suicide prevention, follow up and safety planning for patients admitted with suicidal urges

Health equity

[Health equity training programs at Children's Minnesota](#) to educate employees about inclusive and equitable patient care and at [Park Nicollet](#) to assist staff with managing bias, identifying social risk factors of health and exercising cultural humility

[Justice involved families initiative with Anoka County](#) to reduce negative impacts for children of parents involved with the criminal justice system by offering parenting skills training and school-based support

[Housing and wellbeing fund for homeless or at-risk individuals in St. Louis County](#) to reduce barriers and support people in getting housing and support for mental health needs

[Twin Cities Mobile Market](#), a [Wilder Foundation](#) program bringing affordable fresh and healthy foods to Twin Cities neighborhoods where there is a scarcity of grocery stores

Immigrant health

[Somali Circles of Health & Wellbeing program in Minneapolis and Rochester](#) to support Somali women's and families' whole health through customized resources and education around cooking, exercise, nutrition and accessing health care

[Bridge funding](#) to [Portico Healthnet](#) to support capacity to offer culturally-competent health care enrollment services in response to community needs

[Somali Community Resettlement program](#) in [Olmsted County](#) support to improve the overall health of seniors, adults and children with culturally appropriate care

Aging

[Lutheran Social Service Senior Companion Services](#) providing companionship to UCare Medicare members, and funding to assess impact of the program on member loneliness, health and independence

[Thriving Minds and Healthy Aging initiative](#) in [Carlton County](#) to increase community awareness, empower individuals living with dementia and support caregivers

About UCare

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 440,000 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 ten consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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