

## **United Way of Deschutes County Community Impact Priorities**

Everyone should be **SAFE FROM VIOLENCE & ABUSE**

### High Priority

- Abused, neglected and exploited children, youth, adults (primarily women) and elderly
- Victims & abusers who are ignorant of current resources

### Priority

- Vulnerable people (especially youth, women & elderly) often lack skills & resources that foster independence & self-sufficiency
- Abuse victims (all ages) are isolated
- Barriers prevent abuse victims from using available services
- Safe, quality, affordable childcare is in short supply
- Abusers, often former victims, lack skills needed to avoid abusing
- Abusers often have corresponding substance abuse problems

Everyone deserves an opportunity to meet **BASIC NEEDS**, food, shelter & health

### High Priority

- People (including children & youth) who do not have enough food and go hungry at times
- People (including children & youth) who do not have adequate or stable housing and are homeless at times
- People (including children, & youth) who lack access to basic healthcare
- Elderly and disabled who cannot meet their basic needs: food, shelter, healthcare & transportation
- People who sacrifice other essentials in order to pay for housing

### Priority

- Adults needing treatment for drug &/or alcohol dependency
- People, especially women, needing post-treatment transitional housing
- People in need of detoxification for drug &/or alcohol dependency
- Elderly and disabled who have diminished independence due to isolation

## All children deserve a **GREAT START** in life

### High Priority

- Babies born with low birth weight and/or poor health
- Babies born without benefit of prenatal care
- Young children who have developmental delays or deficits
- Children who do not receive proper nutrition needed for healthy development

### Priority

- Parents who lack knowledge & skills to enhance proper development
- Children who do not receive health or dental care
- Children who are not “ready to learn” upon entering kindergarten
- Parents who do not know what services are available to help them

## **YOUTH** need help to stay **ON TRACK** for success

### High Priority

- Youth who have limited opportunities to develop, self-esteem, talents, character, experience community service outside of school setting
- Adolescent use of the gateway drugs of tobacco and alcohol and illicit drugs especially Meth
- Adolescents needing treatment for drug &/or alcohol dependency

### Priority

- Youth who lack the resilience to avoid developing a substance abuse problem
- Severe anxiety, grief, depression and attempted suicide among youth
- Absence of positive adult role models and mentors in the lives of youth
- Youth engaged in risky behavior such as alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
- Youth engaged in risky behavior such as early sexual activity & exposure to sexually transmitted disease
- Teen pregnancy

Development of parenting skills and provision of mental health services will be prominent strategies for addressing these four community conditions
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