

**United  
Way**



**Monadnock United Way**  
**COMMUNITY IMPACT**  
**REPORT 2020**



The evidence in this year's Community Impact report is compelling - MUW's Collective Impact (CI) strategy is working! Rooted in shared agendas, plans, and measures, successful CI initiatives rely on open communication and strong leadership. MUW is proud of our success in uniting the community to solve issues related to children, education, and financial stability.



# Collective Impact is Working!

## Collective Impact in Action

CI describes a structured model of bringing people together to solve complex problems and achieve social change. Impact Monadnock (IM) was MUW's first CI program, and we are proud to say that we now have five collectives.

- Impact Monadnock
- The Monadnock Alliance for Families
- The Cheshire County Emergency Housing Collaborative
- The Monadnock Region Afterschool Collective
- The Monadnock Food Pantries Collective

Read more at [www.muw.org/2022-investments](http://www.muw.org/2022-investments).

## Here's how we measure and monitor success together:

### Population Level Goals

Eliminating child abuse and neglect, raising reading and math scores, and lifting people above the poverty line are a few of the lofty goals for our community. It takes years to see movement. And we can't do it alone. But working together, we can – and we will!

### Evidence-based Practices

MUW and our partners examine research and choose services shown to solve problems at hand. For example, Impact Monadnock wants to prepare all children for academic, career, and life success. IM's work follows studies showing that engaging families, quality childcare and preschool programming, and home visiting measures help achieve these goals.

### Indicators of Success

While studies point us toward success, programs and services must be delivered with quality. MUW funded CI programs and initiatives set evidence-based goals and measurements designed to lead us to success in addressing issues related to children, education, and financial stability in the Monadnock Region.

See the studies at [muw.org/impact/resources](http://muw.org/impact/resources).



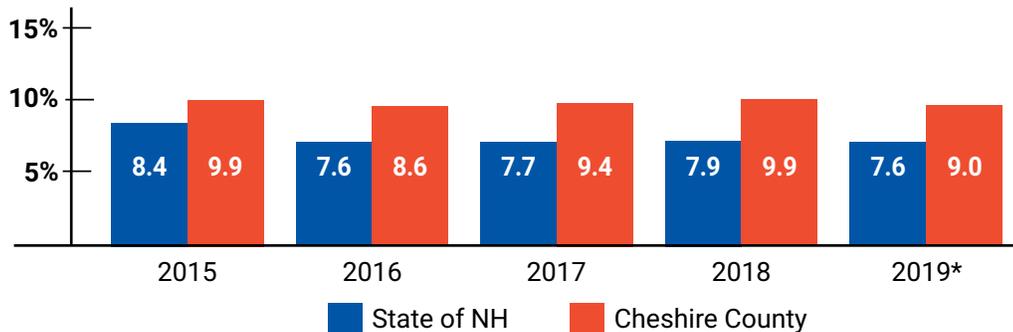
# FINANCIAL STABILITY

We envision that Monadnock area community members have the financial resources they need to live healthy, happy, and productive lives.

## POPULATION LEVEL GOAL

Monadnock area residents achieve financial stability and well-being. To measure success, MUW tracks the percentage of individuals living in poverty in the Monadnock Region.

Percentage of population living at or below poverty level in NH and Cheshire County



Source: University of New Hampshire, Carsey School of Public Policy, Northern New England Indicators.

Poverty is defined as individuals on or below 100% of the federal poverty threshold, based on family income, size, and composition. In 2019, the federal poverty level threshold for a family of four was \$25,750. Source: PovertyUSA.org

\*most recent data available at the time of publication

## OUR IMPACT IN 2020

### Indicators of Success

- 290 residents received emergency housing assistance through the Cheshire County Emergency Housing Collaborative
- 2,710 Monadnock Region residents received healthy, fresh food through the food pantries participating in the Monadnock Region Food Pantries Collective
- 63% of clients across all food pantries participating in the Monadnock Region Food Pantries Collective accessed more fresh produce for their families and households along with recipes to promote use

### Why it Matters

PovertyUSA.org estimates that 6,409 or 9% of Cheshire County residents live in poverty. That is 1 in 11 of our neighbors living at or below the Federal Poverty threshold. The topic of poverty is widely considered a cause for action because poor families often encounter material hardships and reduced well-being and because children who grow up in poor households are less likely to thrive as adults.

# CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

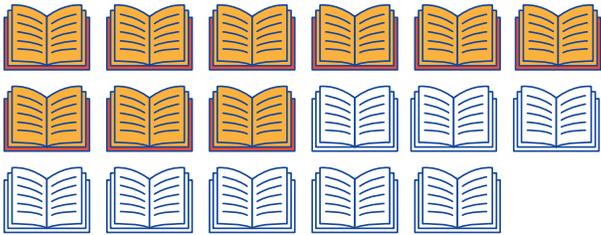
We envision that children in the Monadnock Region live in safe, nurturing, healthy homes and communities, and Monadnock area community members receive an education that enables them to achieve their fullest potential.

## POPULATION LEVEL GOALS

School age children in the Monadnock Region are safe, healthy, and resilient. MUW measures success by tracking the percentage of families, in the Monadnock Region, with children under age 18 living in poverty.

Monadnock area children are ready to learn by the time they enter school. MUW measures success by tracking reading proficiency at the end of third grade.

### Third Grade Reading

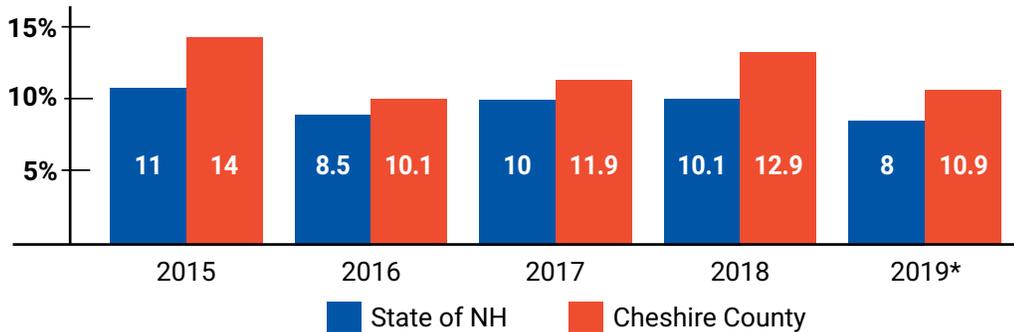


Of the 17 districts reporting in our service area, nine had 50% or above of their students score at or above proficient on the 2019 3rd grade standardized reading exam.

Source: New Hampshire Department of Education

Note: Measure changed in 2018 from 4th grade reading to 3rd grade reading to better reflect the question of readiness for kindergarten.

### Poverty among families with children under 18 years of age



Source: UNH Carsey School of Public Policy, Northern New England Indicators

Poverty is defined as individuals on or below 100% of the federal poverty threshold, based on family income, size, and composition. In 2019, the federal poverty level threshold for a family of four was \$25,750. Source: PovertyUSA.org

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## OUR IMPACT IN 2020

### Indicators of Success

- 935 children across 15 towns participated in some form of afterschool activity offered through the Monadnock Region Afterschool Collective
- 329 children accessed quality affordable services at local child care centers

### Why it Matters

Healthy children who live in a nurturing environment are more likely to achieve success in school and seek career opportunities that contribute to economic growth.

According to NH Kids Count, proficiency in reading by the end of third grade is a crucial marker in a child's educational development.

# IMPACT MONADNOCK

We envision that all children and their families living in the Monadnock Region are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.

## Social and Emotional Success for Young Children: Pyramid Model

We know that strong social and emotional skills are essential to children's well-being and lifelong success. But what's not always as clear is how we can help children develop these skills. That's where Pyramid Model comes in. It's a highly successful framework that parents and teachers in early childhood centers across the region are bringing into their homes and classrooms, with much success.

Through the Pyramid Model, children learn to manage their emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish positive relationships, solve problems, and make good decisions.

"Social and emotional skills are an asset to every child's life. Pyramid Model has helped me and my staff to build strong, independent, respectful people."

– Hanna Berry, Lead Teacher, Keene Day Care Center

**FOUR local early childhood centers are implementing Pyramid Model, including:**

- Keene Day Care Center
- The Children's Learning Center at Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock
- Jonathan Daniels Preschool
- The Child Development Center at Keene State College

**IM attracted FOUR MORE local sites to begin Pyramid Model in 2021, thanks to a grant from the Healthy Monadnock Alliance:**

- The Keene Family YMCA
- Rise for baby and family
- Home Away from Home in Walpole
- Walpole Village School

IM is proud to expand this proven system in the Monadnock Region so that our teachers, caregivers, and families can help young children develop healthy social and emotional skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

**Watch videos and learn more at [muw.org/impact/what-pyramid-model](https://muw.org/impact/what-pyramid-model).**

# One Collective is Better than Two!

## The Monadnock Alliance for Families

In the middle of the pandemic, the **Monadnock Home Visiting Alliance** and the **Monadnock Parent Education Collective** merged. Both provided services to reduce child abuse and neglect by strengthening households across the region. Each provided complementary services including home visiting, parent education, and engagement activities that bolster children's development. By coordinating their efforts, more families are served and they can more easily access the services they need when they need them.



And the alliance was more nimble too. In the words of Alicia Deaver:

“A big advantage of the alliance is that the focus remains on the families.”



### And focus they did!

- 989 families were served across 34 towns
- Programs were added and expanded to meet changing needs
- A switch to virtual, hybrid, and, later, in-person services using pop up tents and outdoor heaters ensured that services met family needs

# Community Building

In 2020, Monadnock United Way did what we do best: bring together various sectors of our community to develop and implement solutions.



## Monadnock Social Services Collective

With support from MUW staff, a group of agencies that serve older adults convened at the start of the pandemic. In a CI process, the agencies worked together to allocate a \$15,000 Covid-Relief grant from **Tufts Health Plan Foundation**. Funds were distributed to **Monadnock Family Services, Adult Day Center** to continue operations, **HCS Meals on Wheels** to purchase containers for meal delivery, and the **Community Volunteer Transportation Company** to purchase PPE for each organization in the group. The collective continues today, collaborating on grants and projects to best serve the needs of seniors in our region.

## Food Providers Group

Starting in March of 2020, MUW facilitated regular meetings of a group of organizations including SAUs, food pantries, **UNH Cooperative Extension, MUCH, Feeding Tiny Tummies**, and many others invested in fighting food insecurity in the region.

The group shared resources, checked in with one another, and passed along information to ensure that they were reaching as many people as possible without duplicating services. We are proud to say that the group is now facilitated by **Southwestern Community Services** and continues to share updates, ideas, and successes.

[Go to muw.org/2022-investments](https://muw.org/2022-investments) to read more.



We win by **LIVING UNITED.**

By forging unlikely partnerships.  
By finding new solutions to old problems.  
By mobilizing the best resources.  
And inspiring individuals to join the fight against  
our community's most daunting social crises.

Every day, Monadnock United Way works alongside  
our dedicated partners throughout the area to serve  
those in need and find ways to advance our giving  
across nearly 40 communities in the Monadnock region.



**Monadnock United Way**

23 Center Street  
Keene, NH 03431  
tel 603.352.4209  
fax 603.352.0750

**muw.org**