

Monadnock United Way

**COMMUNITY IMPACT
REPORT 2022**

Collective Impact at Work



Statistics of community impact in 2022 are outlined on the following pages.

At Monadnock United Way, we strongly believe that diverse members of our community can achieve more impactful and successful outcomes by working together.

This belief drives our work each year as we provide funding and consulting services to our partner collectives and programs. We also take the initiative in fostering cross-sector collaborations to achieve collective impact, establishing ourselves as a critical player in driving positive change in our community.



Scan to learn about ways to support MUW.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Monadnock Resource Alliance (MRA)

MRA is a collaborative effort to address the housing crisis in our area, which is causing homelessness and insecurity and negatively impacting the health and well-being of individuals and families. Read more on page 4.

Cheshire County Emergency Housing Collaborative

This MUW-funded Collective was formed in 2020 by Southwestern Community Services, Hundred Nights, Inc, and Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention to aid those facing homelessness and housing instability in the region. Read more on page 5.

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

Early Childhood Region 1 (ECR1)

ECR1 is a coalition including childcare, education, health, mental health, and family resource centers, as well as businesses from the Monadnock Region to the Upper Valley. Its goal is to improve outcomes for children from prenatal through age 8 and their families. Read about one successful collaboration on page 7.



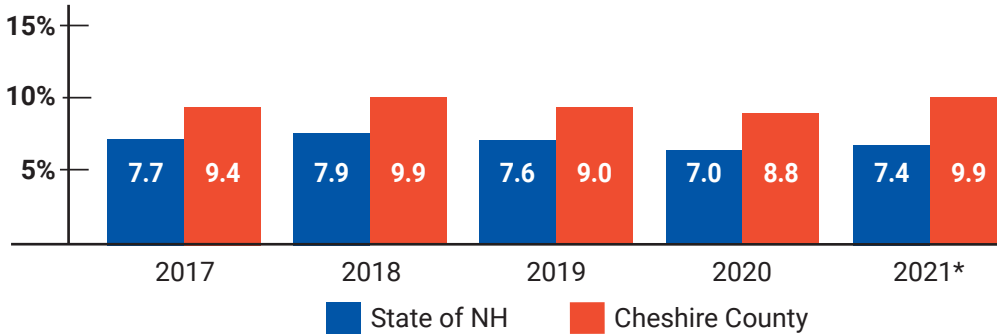
FINANCIAL STABILITY

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

POPULATION LEVEL GOALS

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

Percentage of residents living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level in NH and Cheshire County



In 2021, 9.9% of Cheshire County residents lived at or below 100% of the poverty level. Cheshire County ranked 9th out of the 10 counties in NH in percent of residents living in poverty.

Source: <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2021/demo/saibe/2021-state-and-county.html>

*Latest data available at the time of publication

Poverty is defined as individuals on or below 100% of the poverty threshold, based on family income, size, and composition. In 2021 the Federal Poverty Level for a family of four was \$26,500.

Source: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/d2eececdc1ca66dfd41ca1d2a524e076/HHS-Poverty-Guidelines-Fed-Register-2021.pdf>



Why it Matters

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, “To help children grow into prepared, productive adults, parents need jobs with family-sustaining pay, affordable housing, and the ability to invest in their children’s future.”

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “Financial stability enables families to access safe housing, healthy foods, and other necessities, to engage fully in their communities, and to plan for the future.”

Source: www.aecf.org www.rwj.org

OUR IMPACT

Indicators of Success

- 510 residents received emergency housing assistance through the **Cheshire County Emergency Housing Collaborative**. 74% of those clients participated in a housing-focused case plan.
- 2,196 visitors to local food pantries in 22 towns received fresh produce and recipes through the **Monadnock Food Pantries Collective**.
- 257 children from low to moderate-income families received childcare scholarships to access quality affordable services at local MUW-supported childcare centers.

Scan here to learn more about our community impact.



Community to Housing

Unlikely Partnerships to SOLVE OUR HOUSING CRISIS

Our region's housing issue is complex with rippling effects for all. A telling statistic is Cheshire County's 2022 rental housing availability rate of 0.6%. For comparison, 5% is considered healthy.¹ Without enough affordable, quality places to live, more people find themselves homeless or housing insecure.

The Monadnock Resource Alliance (MRA) aims to help solve this problem. The Alliance recognizes that there is no one solution or entity that will fix the housing crisis. Our community must work hand in hand to understand the issue and take coordinated action until this problem is solved.

In 2022, MRA researched successful housing collaborations. The members identified one that brought unlikely groups together, broke down barriers, and established trust. Groups included developers, utilities, environmentalists, municipalities, faith-based organizations, businesses, nonprofits, and others.

That same drive exists in our region and MRA members will convene our community in 2023 to identify collaborations, opportunities, and actions to help ensure that everyone has a safe, affordable home.

1 New Hampshire Housing: New Hampshire 2022 Residential Rental Cost Survey Report at nhhousing.org.

MRA is a coalition founded by MUW and the NH Community Loan Fund focused on solving key problems affecting our region.

Scan here to learn
more about MRA.



While diverse, everyone had this in common: The drive

Without enough places to live,
homeless or housing insecure,
surfing, moving frequently,
spending the bulk of

Responses Insecurity

Finding a Way Home

In early 2021, a family of two adults and two children with developmental disabilities lost their home and had minimal income. They sought refuge in a local emergency shelter that is part of the Cheshire County Emergency Housing Collaborative (CCEHC), where their names were added to NH's prioritization list and resources were available to find stable housing.

With limited housing stock, the family spent an entire year in the shelter. They finally obtained a two-bedroom apartment and utilized a State program to cover essential expenses. The father secured full-time employment and the children continued their education without disruption.

With these combined efforts, the family seamlessly integrated into their new community, serving as a testament to the family's resiliency and CCEHC's impact.

to fix the housing crisis in their communities together.

Established in 2020 with funding from MUW, CCEHC members include Southwestern Community Services, Hundred Nights, Inc, and Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention. CCEHC members work closely together to assist homeless and housing-insecure individuals and families in obtaining stable housing using Low Barrier, Trauma Informed Care, and Housing First approaches.

, more people find themselves
ure, meaning they are couch
living in poor conditions, or
income on housing.

CHILDREN

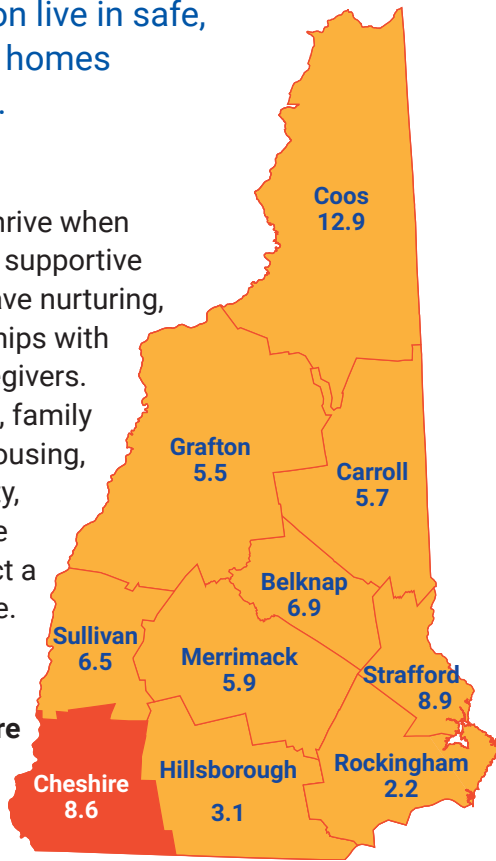
We envision that children in the Monadnock Region live in safe, nurturing, healthy homes and communities.

Why it Matters

Children and youth thrive when they grow up in safe, supportive environments and have nurturing, committed relationships with parents or other caregivers. Exposure to violence, family stress, inadequate housing, poor nutrition, poverty, and substance abuse can negatively impact a child's ability to thrive.

Source www.aecf.org

2020* New Hampshire Child Maltreatment Rate Per 1,000
State of NH 4.7



Cheshire County continues to have the 3rd highest child maltreatment rate in the State.

Source: <https://datacenter.aecf.org>

*Latest data available at the time of publication

OUR IMPACT

Indicators of Success

- 1,905 children and families in 36 towns received services such as home visiting, parent education, and children's programming through the **Monadnock Alliance for Families**.
- The **Southwestern Community Services Dental Screening Program** provided 72 Head Start children with dental screenings and preventative dental services.
- 1,291 children across 15 towns participated in afterschool activities through the **Monadnock Region Afterschool Collective**.

POPULATION LEVEL GOALS

Young children aged 0–5 years and school-age children (6–17) are safe, healthy, and resilient. MUW measures the success of these goals by tracking the child maltreatment rate per 1,000 children at the State and County level. Monadnock Region children are ready to learn by the time they enter school. MUW measures success by tracking 4th grade English Language Arts proficiency.

EDUCATION

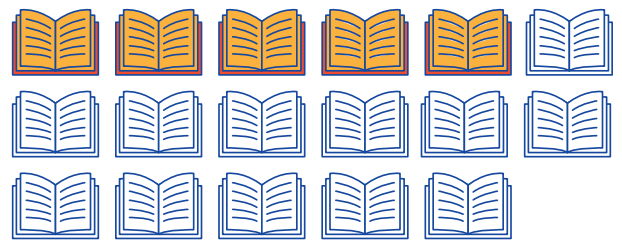
Monadnock area community members receive an education that enables them to achieve their fullest potential.

Why it Matters

According to NH Kids Count, proficiency in reading at the end of third grade is a crucial marker in a child's educational development. This is measured by the fourth-grade English Language Arts exam.

Source www.aecf.org

Fourth Grade English Language Arts



Of the 17 districts reporting in our service area, 5 had students score at or above the State average of 48% in the 2022 fourth-grade ELA exam.

Source: New Hampshire Department of Education



Game-Changing Mentorships for Teachers (and children too)!

It's not often that a seasoned educator exclaims that a professional development experience "was a game changer in my teaching practice!" But this is exactly what Melissa Jeffery, a preschool teacher at the Walpole Village School, said about her participation in the Collaboration Through Coaching (CTC) project.

Melissa received coaching for social-emotional learning from Mallory Smith, a Fall Mountain Regional School District early childhood teacher. As part of the CTC project, Mallory received training on the Pyramid Model (an evidence-based framework that promotes young children's social-emotional learning). It was truly a win-win for Melissa and Mallory, not to mention their schools and students, as they both developed new skills that impact their effectiveness every day.

"Through collaboration with Mallory, it was exciting to learn and grow with another colleague in the district and have her guide me in best practices for implementing the Pyramid Model in my classroom," said Melissa Jeffrey. "It has helped me look more positively at my class."

One such best practice helped a child who was missing her mom a lot. Using pictures that showed when she would see her mother again helped the young girl to feel secure. Learning to manage natural emotions - such as missing a parent - allows children to engage in learning and fun in the moment, while building lifelong social skills.

This successful collaboration between a public school teacher and a local childcare teacher is one example of the many gamechangers for teachers and children made possible through the CTC project.

"While coaching Melissa, I also gained many new ideas for my own classroom," said Mallory Smith. "I saw Melissa doing meaningful work that inspired me to make some changes in my own practices and helped me stay on track with the Pyramid Model with my own students as well." Smith reports finding more ways to engage with families and keep them connected to the classroom.

MUW's Impact Monadnock serves as the Lead Agency for NH's Early Childhood Region 1, a 61-town region spanning the Greater Monadnock, Greater Sullivan, and Upper Valley regions of NH. ECR1 and the Collaboration Through Coaching project are funded through the NH Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families.

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

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muw.org