



UNITED WAY
Lowcountry

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Addressing Self-Sufficiency Together

United Way of the Lowcountry is focused on one clear goal: creating opportunities for families to become self-sufficient. Yet, 39% of households in Beaufort County and 46% in Jasper County need some form of assistance each month just to get by.

No single organization can solve this alone. That's why UWLC brought together a diverse Steering Committee—including nonprofits, government leaders, educators, healthcare providers, and faith communities—to collaborate on removing barriers that prevent families from thriving.

Understanding the Challenges

Throughout the summer of 2025, this group met regularly to identify the most pressing obstacles facing local families. They narrow these to eight key areas:

- Livable Wage
- Technology Access
- Healthcare
- Food Security
- Affordable Housing
- Child Care
- Education
- Transportation

Priorities for Impact

On August 5, leaders come together to focus on where the community can make the biggest difference. Two priorities emerge:

- **Education “Cradle to Career”** – Preparing community members from early childhood through adulthood for lifelong success.

- **Affordable Housing** – Ensuring safe, stable housing so individuals and families can thrive.

Addressing these complex issues takes time, commitment, and difficult conversations across all sectors of the Lowcountry. But with collaboration and advocacy, real change becomes possible.

Collaborative Leadership

The Steering Committee of the Community Action Plan represents a broad spectrum of community voices and expertise, from education and healthcare to government and nonprofit sectors. These leaders bring valuable insight and shared commitment, working across traditional boundaries to develop innovative solutions and create lasting impact for families striving toward self-sufficiency.

The result: This collaborative effort lays the groundwork for strategic, community-wide action which will set families on a path to long-term self-sufficiency and build a stronger Lowcountry.

See the back for a list of active

Steering Committee members.

Steering Committee Members

Organization	Representative	Title
United Way of the Lowcountry	Dale Douthat	President and CEO
	Chrystie Turner	Executive Vice President
	Wendy Jones	Director of Marketing/Communication
Community Foundation of the Lowcountry	Scott Wierman	CEO
Coastal Community Foundation	Amy Page	Southern Lowcountry Grants
Beaufort County Government	Audra Antonacci	Assistant County Administrator
	Ben Bosworth	Beaufort County Human Services Alliance
City of Hardeeville	Harry Williams	Mayor
Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health	Dr. Faith Polkey	CEO
Gullah Latino Advisory Council	Italia Parisi	Community Member
Technical College of the Lowcountry	Allison Canning	VP for Student Services
Deep Well Project	Sandy Gillis	Executive Director
Bluffton Self-Help	Courtney Hampson	Executive Director
Agape Family Life	Ponchitta Young	Executive Director
Beaufort County School District	Dr. Mary Stratos	Chief Instructional Services Officer
Beaufort County Economic Development Corp.	Kelli Brunson	Senior Project Manager
Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority	Brian Sullivan	Executive Director
The Island News	Lolita Huckabee	Columnist/Community Advocate
The Children's Center Novant	Jody Levitt	Executive Director
	Maurice Mitchell	Market Associate Administrator (HHI)
Lowcountry Legal Volunteers	Anne Caywood	Executive Director
Lowcountry Food Bank	Kara Moore	Director, Community Engagement
Beaufort Housing Authority	Julie Davis	Executive Director
Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust Fund	Claude Hicks	Executive Director
Beaufort Memorial Hospital	Victoria Tinsley	Assistant Administrator
Jasper County School District	Senaca Baines	Administrator of Student Services
USC Beaufort	Dr. Diana Gill Chair	Department of Public Health and

