



Meeting Community Needs Together

Urban Alliance Engagement Opportunities

2024

As a collective impact organization, Urban Alliance (UA) equips Christian churches, organizations, volunteers and donors to positively impact communities and change lives.

www.urbanalliance.com

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ABOUT URBAN ALLIANCE

LEVERAGING STRENGTHS TO CHANGE LIVES

WHO WE ARE

Urban Alliance (UA) is a non-profit organization located in East Hartford, CT. As people of faith and hope, motivated by the love of Christ, we have a deep desire to serve the Greater Hartford Community in unity with others to provide the help, hope and love that we all need.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

By working together to meet needs, ministries and other community partners accomplish more together, than alone. Collective impact opportunities provide platforms for unity partners and community allies to work together to meet community needs. UA serves as the backbone organization by connecting, equipping, mobilizing and guiding these collaborative efforts.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to create opportunities for people to achieve lasting change in their lives through the collaborative work of churches and organizations in our local community.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

There are countless churches and organizations with ministries that offer ongoing programming to meet needs in the community. Programs such as food pantries, community meals, residential programs, youth groups, care and counseling ministries, health programs, and preschools receive training, volunteers, program supplies, grants and consultation through Urban Alliance's program support.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to see people become spiritually, physically, economically and socially healthy and whole as God intended.

All program support is informed by community data, resident feedback, and research-informed best-practices. By supporting existing programs, Urban Alliance increases their reach and impact.

OUR APPROACH: HOW WE DO IT



CONNECT

people through network relationships & communications.

EQUIP

organizations with knowledge & skills through research & training.

MOBILIZE

volunteers & resources for collaborative action.

GUIDE

throughout the process to transform action into results.





TYPES OF URBAN ALLIANCE ENGAGEMENT

We are better together when we collaborate to make an impact!

	COMMUNITY ALLY	UNITY PARTNERS	PROGRAM PARTNERS
Engage in Collective Impact Opportunities	✓	✓	✓
Volunteer through UAServe	✓	✓	✓
Participate in Free UA Training & Networking Opportunities		✓	✓
Receive Essential Supplies and Ministry Toolkits			✓
Receive Volunteer Support			✓
Receive Grant Funding			✓

UA works with many community partners and has a variety of partnerships, including:

- **Community Allies:** Community organizations with a mission that aligns with one of Urban Alliance’s initiatives or collective impact opportunities.
- **Unity Partners:** Christian churches and organizations with 501(c)(3) status that desire to work collaboratively with others to impact the community.
- **Program Partners:** Specific programs operated by Unity Partners with goals that align UA’s mission to serve. Leaders will be invited as program partners after their church or organization becomes a Unity Partner.

visit www.urbanalliance.com
for more information



URBAN ALLIANCE COLLECTIVE IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES

1 SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Partner with a Title 1 school to support students' academic success



2 FOOD INSECURITY

Partner to fight hunger, by providing food and support to increase life stability



3 REENTRY

Support returning citizens as they rebuild and improve their lives



4 MENTAL HEALTH

Decrease stigma, increase mental health support in churches



5 FOSTER CARE

Share about opportunities to foster CT's most vulnerable youth



6 UNITED PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Participate in united prayer and worship events as we seek God for our region



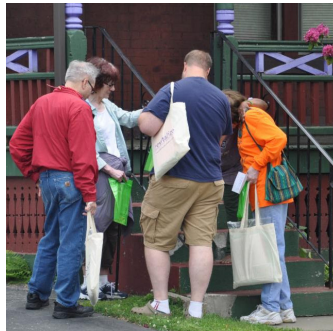
7 VOLUNTEER WITH UA SERVE

Volunteer with a UA network program partner



8 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Meet needs through a unified outreach effort



9 HEALTH SCREENING & EDUCATION

Meet needs by hosting a health outreach event.



School Partnerships: Supporting Academic Success



UA believes in creating opportunities for students, teachers and community schools to thrive, especially in under-resourced schools.

- In collaboration with World Vision (WV), the Teacher Resource Center (TRC) provides teachers with access to free supplies and resources. Each year, the TRC serves over 1,200 teachers, distributing more than \$807,000 in supplies.
- UA connects willing churches and network partners to school support opportunities. Partners can help meet a specific school need or establish longer term relationships with specific schools.
- Each year, in partnership with WV, hundreds of school bags filled with supplies are made available to local students and schools.

We want our teachers to know that they are valued. UA has been able to provide teachers at select schools with teacher care packages throughout the year. Partner with us as we continue to identify needs and partners willing to assist the development of our next generation of leaders.

Ways to Engage:

- Support a school in need or volunteer at a school partnership event
- Provide financial assistance for UA to support the TRC
- Spread the word so more eligible schools receive this valuable resource



Food Insecurity: Providing Food and Improving Life Stability

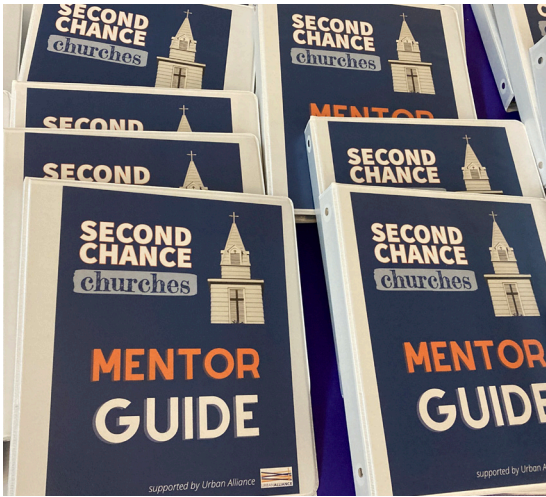
In CT, 11% or 490,000 residents, struggle with hunger and more than 131,000 children are food insecure. UA meets the crisis need of hunger by providing food while addressing root causes of hunger through referrals, coaching and financial literacy education.

UA partners with Midwest Food Bank and other partners to host monthly food distributions. Additionally, we equip volunteer coaches to help residents set goals that will increase food security, offer warm referrals, and help them achieve greater life stability.

Ways to Engage:

- Host a food distribution event or volunteer at an existing event
- Establish your own basic needs program. UA will assist with ongoing training and support.
- Share resource guides to help food insecure household access needed support
- Host or offer UA sponsored classes or a workshop on topics that promote economic mobility

Reentry: Supporting Returning Citizens



A Second Chance Church is a church that desires to show the love of Christ to people reentering the community after a period of incarceration by intentionally providing mentoring, support, and resources.

UA identifies and equips willing partners and supports them by providing training, resources, networking opportunities and other tools that are supportive to returning citizens.

We also build bridges between churches and community partners, such as existing Welcome Centers, re-entry programming and probation resources throughout the state.

Get involved and support collective efforts to help reentering citizens rebuild their lives.

Ways to Engage:

- Become a Second Chance Church
- Support returning citizens through mentoring, classes or supportive programming
- Distribute back bags with basic needs items to returning citizens



Mental Health: Raising Awareness and Connecting to Support

Each year 1 in 4 people struggle with diagnosable mental illness and only half receive treatment. UA supports mental health through education, referrals and program support to churches and organizations that offer support groups, pastoral care, and professional Christian counseling. These efforts decrease stigma, raise awareness and increase the quality of care offered to people who are struggling.

UA provides Unity Partners with mental health resources to share with congregants, a listing of Christian counselors and support groups at www.charisnetworkct.org, and speakers on various topics to increase awareness and decrease stigma. Urban Alliance also offers networking and training opportunities to licensed professional Christian counselors.

Ways to Engage:

- Share mental health resources at your church or organization to raise awareness
- Host a mental health seminar or workshop
- Offer new mental health care or counseling opportunities and share them on the Charis website

Therapeutic Foster Care: Foster to Change Lives



In partnership with The Village for Children and Families, UA is working to recruit foster families for our states most vulnerable children and youth. This recently launched program will provide short- and long-term options for individuals and families at partner churches to show they care.

Ways to Engage:

- Share about opportunities to foster at your church
- Become a sponsor
- Provide financial support to UA as we provide relief for young adults needing foster care

Volunteer with UAServe: Make a Difference in the Community



Churches and organizations can mobilize volunteers to serve at network participant programs. Volunteers are matched to meaningful opportunities that align with their talents, skills and interests and most importantly, help people and programs in our local communities.

Ways to Engage:

- Share about UA Serve volunteer opportunities
- Inquire about personal volunteer opportunities
- Spread the word

Collaborative Community Outreach: Unite to Meet Needs



UA church and community partners are invited to participate in collaborative community outreach efforts.

Unity Partners work together to prepare and distribute resource bags and host outreach events. Additionally, unity partners are invited to share about summer outreach events on the Summer of Hope weboste.

Ways to Engage:

- Participate in our annual Outreach Day on June 8
- Help prepare resource bags at the Packing Party on May 17
- Share summer outreach events on the Summer of Hope website - www.summerofhopect.org

United Prayer and Worship: Seeking God Together



The bible says that unity is important in the body of Christ. UA helps to coordinate opportunities for churches and organizations to come together to seek God.

ARISE coordinates prayer and worship events bi-annually and weekly virtual prayer. Impact CT coordinates 10 Days of Prayer, 24/7 prayer coverage for the state of CT and regional opportunities for pastors to gather.

UA partners with ARISE and Impact CT and shares about regional events that promote united prayer and worship among Unity Partners.

Ways to Engage:

- Share about and participate in united prayer and worship events
- Partner with Impact CT to cover the state in 24/7 prayer
- Pastors and church staff can participate in regional leader gatherings

Host a Health Screening and Education Event



Health disparities are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations. In CT, Black and Hispanic residents have poorer health outcomes than white residents, including higher rates of asthma, diabetes, cancer, and infant mortality.

UA partners with community health organizations and program partners to host health outreach events. Through these events residents receive health screenings and education with the goal of reducing health disparities.

Ways to Engage:

- Host a health outreach event or volunteer at an existing event
- Establish your own health program. UA will assist with ongoing training and support.
- Share information about health resources, screening events and healthy living.
- Host or offer UA sponsored classes or a workshop on topics that promote healthy living

What are UA's 5 Initiatives?

UA's 5 initiatives provide affinity groups for our program partners, allowing them to strengthen and multiply the impact of their outreach programs as they are demonstrating Christ's love through practical service. Our initiatives provide networking opportunities for partners as they collaborate with other like-minded programs to address practical, emotional, relational and spiritual needs. Together, we help people achieve lasting change in their lives.

Which of UA's 5 Initiatives align closely with your ministry or program?

Each of UA's 5 initiatives focuses on a specific area of need.



Beyond the Basics reaches people who are lacking food, clothing or housing so they meet their basic needs and gain greater stability in their lives.



Revitalize enables people struggling with health conditions to better care for their physical health needs so they are able to experience and maintain a lifestyle of wellness.



Charis serves people who are facing difficult mental, emotional or relational struggles so they are able to cope with life's challenges and heal.



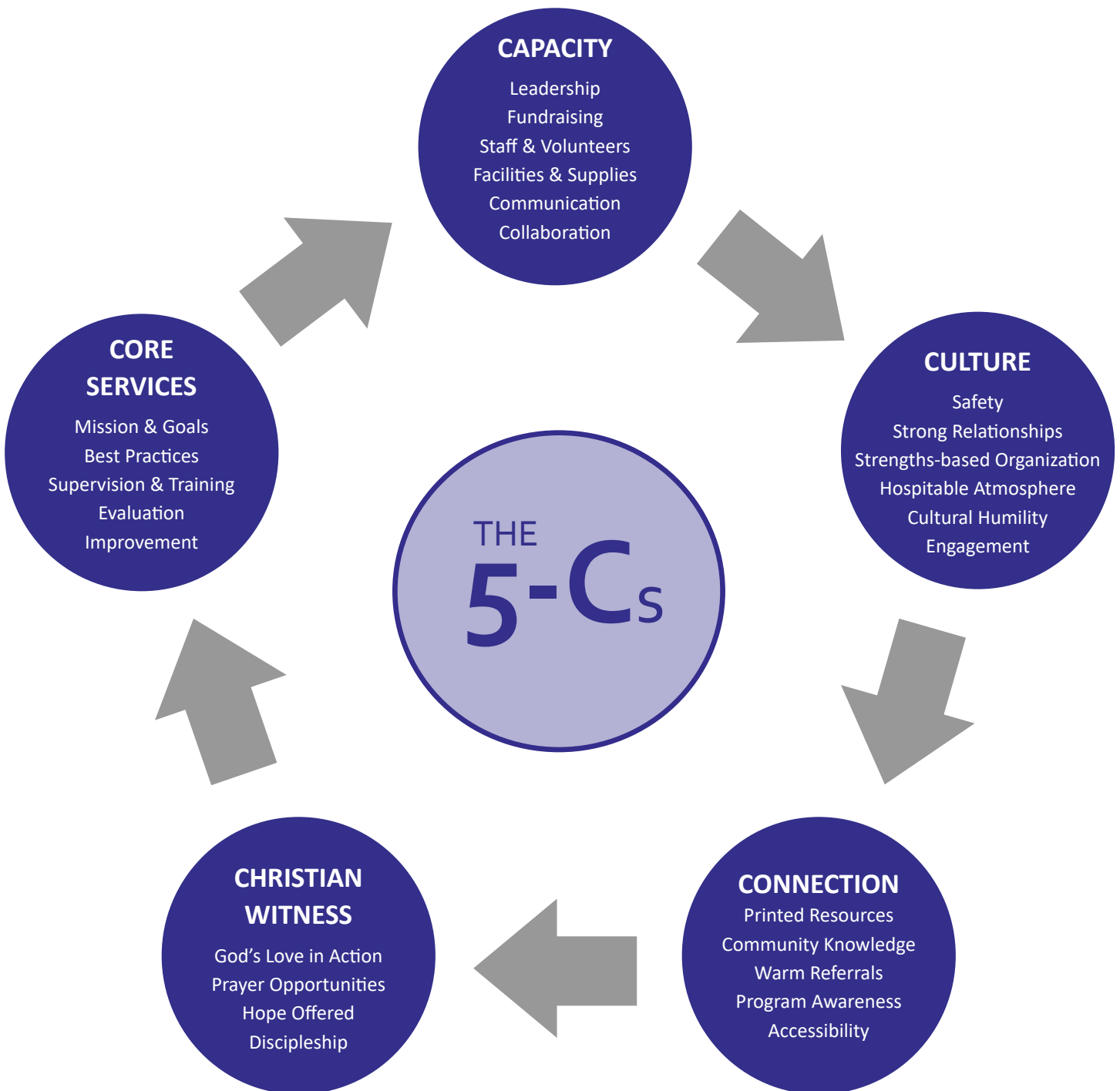
Generation NOW! engages children and youth so they develop the character, relationships and skills needed to succeed in their schools and communities.



Thrive assists young children and their caregivers during critical developmental stages so children develop strong foundations for learning and growth.

What are Your Strengths and Opportunities within the 5-C Framework?

UA has created a comprehensive strategy for partner program growth. As you identify support opportunities that you desire to participate in, consider how these opportunities allow your program or ministry to grow in these 5 key areas.



UA encourages you to be intentional about growth in each area. This is why we continue to serve by creating opportunities for you and your ministry to expand your reach and scope. Some PDOs focus on one area of growth. Others increase proficiency across categories. As you grow, we invite you to share your experience.

THE ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES PROGRAM (ESP)

Accessing Resources at our On-Site Distribution Center:



UA partners with World Vision to offer supplies to programs. On a monthly basis, participating programs shop at World Vision's ESP for free supplies that directly serve peoples' needs or offset program costs.

To participate, programs must attend an orientation and complete a registration process. Program leaders receive ESP orientation invitations.

5-C Category: Capacity

Available to any program partner. For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.

UAServe: Volunteer Program Offerings

Strengthening Your Volunteer Base:



UAServe provides consultation and volunteer matching to help programs engage volunteers in meaningful service that strengthens program impact. UAServe recruits, matches and runs background checks to support program volunteer programs.

To qualify for UAServe, at least one program leader must complete a host site orientation.

5-C Category: Capacity

Available to any program partner. For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.

Volunteer Appreciation Events:



Program leaders have the opportunity to partner with UA to offer a volunteer appreciation event for their volunteers. Program leaders can invite up to 50 volunteers to an appreciate event held at the UA office.

UA will provide light refreshments, certificates, and facilitate ice breakers or games. Program leaders will have the opportunity to share and celebrate each volunteer in attendance.

5-C Category: Capacity

Available to any program partner. For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.

Learning Communities and Cohorts:



Learning communities are groups of program leaders who are committed to gathering regularly to build relationship and learn from one another through group dialogue and training. There are five different learning communities (one for each initiative) that meet multiple times each year on relevant topics.

Program leaders will receive reminders about learning community meetings that best align with their programming.

Additionally, Urban Alliance facilitates specialized cohorts to help leaders sharpen their skills through peer consultation, group discussion and relationship. We currently facilitate groups for senior pastors, prayer ministry leaders, professional counselors, and resource coaches/mentors.

5-C Category: All

Available to any program partner leader. For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.

Program Consultation:



Through this opportunity, program leaders meet with an UA staff who provides consultation to support leaders in understanding their program’s unique strengths and challenges, and to help them establish strategic goals for growth and greater impact. Programs may contact an UA staff at any time to schedule a consultation meeting.

5-C Category: Capacity, Core Services

Available to any program partner senior leader. For more information contact jessica.sanderson@urbanalliance.com.

Professional Services:



Urban Alliance staff provide professional services such as program evaluation, strategic planning, workshop facilitation, public speaking, needs assessments, DISC training, and communications support. This support is available based on staff capacity.

5-C Category: Capacity, Core Services

Available to program partners based on UA capacity. For more information contact jessica.sanderson@urbanalliance.com.

Capacity Grants (5-C Grants):

5-C Capacity Grants are grants of \$500 awarded to program partners to support efforts that strengthen one or more of Urban Alliance's 5-C areas. Urban Alliance's 5-C areas includes:

- **Program Culture:** Offering a welcoming, dignified, caring experience for people receiving support
Example efforts: furniture or artwork to create a more welcoming environment, paint or new carpeting, decorations with strength-based messaging, efforts that increase positive interaction between guests and staff/volunteers
- **Program Capacity:** Essentials needed to operate a program and enhance sustainability
Example efforts: Supplies needed for programming, projects that enhance volunteer retention, new fundraising efforts, new communications efforts
- **Core Services:** Efforts most directly linked to positive change in people's lives
Example efforts: workshops and classes that implement evidence-based curriculum, support groups, efforts that increase program impact or implementation of best practices, coaching, mentoring, program evaluation, or needs assessments
- **Connection:** Ensuring people's needs are holistically met by connecting them to additional programming
Example efforts: Efforts to raise residents awareness about your program, enhanced signage, youth scholarships to THP or YX Movement, resource center enhancements, warm referral strategies
- **Christian Witness:** Sharing the love of Christ through programming
Example efforts: Sharing bibles, tracts or devotionals with people served, creating materials that integrate faith into programming, discipleship opportunities for people served

Grants are competitive and awarded on an annual cycle. Grant applications are due April 1st and September 1st and the number of grants awarded is commensurate with Urban Alliance fundraising. Efforts that are sustainable after the 1 year grant period will be given priority.

Visit urbanalliance.com/grants to submit an online grant application, view the UA Grant Guide and to learn more.

5-C Category: All
Available to any program partner. For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.



What are Ministry Toolkits?

Urban Alliance makes available different collections of resources and materials, paired with training to help programs develop and grow in the 5-Cs: Capacity, Culture, Connection, Christian Witness, and Core services.

Though some toolkits are limited to specific programs, most are available to all programs that are part of the UA Network.

Printed Resources and Resource Centers:

Printed Resources

Urban Alliance provides programs with printed resources about programs meeting the most commonly felt needs in the community such as food, utilities, housing, mental health services, education, childcare, youth enrichment, and services to seniors, returning citizens, and immigrants.

Resource Centers

Program partners are encouraged to display resources at a resource center. Resource centers are visually appealing displays of printed materials accessible to people served. Staff and volunteers can receive training from Urban Alliance to offer warm referrals to community programs

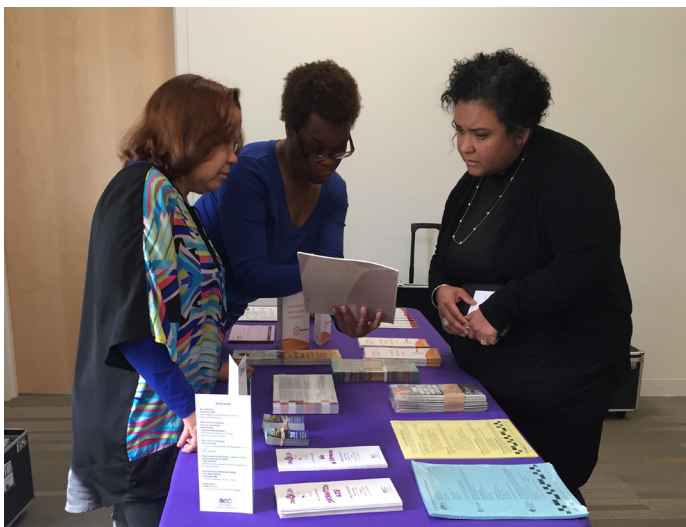
After operating a resource center for 1 year, Urban Alliance helps programs enhance resource centers by including:

- the use of tablets to collect feedback from people served
- mounted televisions with scrolling information about events and resources
- cell phones to offer follow-up after a warm referral is made
- computers for job searchers or to complete benefit applications

Program leaders may contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com for more information.

5-C Category: Connection

Available to any program partner. For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.



email initiatives@urbanalliance.com or

Visit urbanalliance.com/toolkits for more information on each toolkit

Community Outreach Toolkit:



UA provides program partners with training and printed resources to ensure residents have up-to-date information about community programs. Program partners receive bags packed with printed materials about resources in the community and a tract. Program partners can add information about their services or special events to each bag.

Programs are invited to contribute to a collaborative community outreach effort and/or distribute the resources through regular program services. To participate in this opportunity, program leaders and/or other program staff or volunteers must attend the Community Outreach Training, and must be prepared to distribute outreach bags. Program leaders will receive more information about this opportunity when they attend the Community Outreach Day Training.

5-C Category: Connection

Available to any program partner. For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.

Ages and Stages Developmental Screening Toolkit:

The Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) can be used as a developmental screening tool to educate parents about child development and assess if a child is experiencing a delay. The ASQ-3 detects delays across five areas of development (physical motor, fine motor, communication, intellectual, or social-emotional). Additionally, the ASQ: SE-2 can be used to detect social and emotional delays or concerns. When a possible delay is detected program staff and volunteers can connect families to early intervention services.



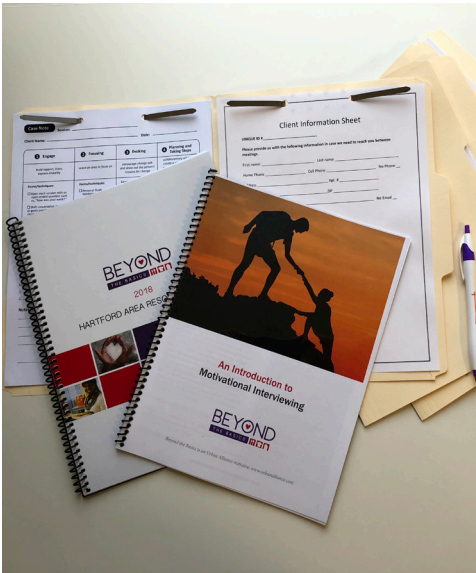
The ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 toolkits each include questionnaire sets, a CD-ROM with printable PDF questionnaires, the User's Guide and a free Quick Start Guide. Additionally, each program will receive a tote bag containing the supplies needed to administer the questionnaires and ASQ Learning Activities CD-ROM. These items provide everything needed to implement the Ages and Stages questionnaires.

5-C Category: Core Services and Connection

Available to any program partner working with children 0-5 years old.
For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.

email initiatives@urbanalliance.com or

Visit urbanalliance.com/toolkits for more information on each toolkit



Coaching and Case Management Toolkit:

Through the process of coaching, guests are supported as they set personal goals, create a plan to accomplish their goals and take action to see change in their lives. Coaches offer practical support and encouragement as guests take steps towards positive life changes. Urban Alliance offers training on coaching, Motivational Interviewing and offering referrals; as well as case files packed with consent forms and case notes, Motivational Interviewing handouts, certificates for guests who complete the program, note cards to support closure sessions and questionnaires that can be used to document positive life change.

5-C Category: Core Services

Available to any program partner offering coaching. For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.

Community Garden Toolkit:

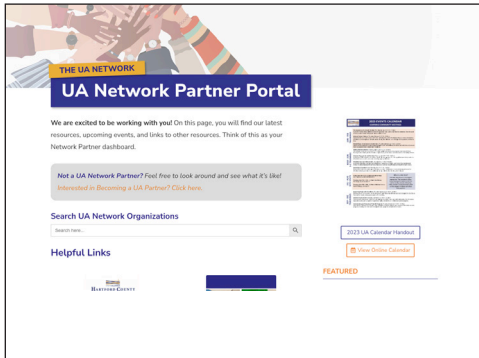


A community garden is a piece of land shared by a group of people where fruits and vegetables are grown. Community gardens provide the ideal context for people to gain the knowledge, skills and experience needed to grow and prepare their own fruits and vegetables, which are foundational to a healthy diet. Community gardens also offer the added health benefits of physical activity and exposure to nature. UA provides training, toolkits and consultation to programs that are positioned to use community gardening to help people they serve learn how to grow and use fresh produce to support their long-term health and wellness. To request a training and toolkit for your program visit urbanalliance.com/toolkits.

5-C Category: Core Services

Available to any program partner working toward health outcomes. For more information contact initiatives@urbanalliance.com.

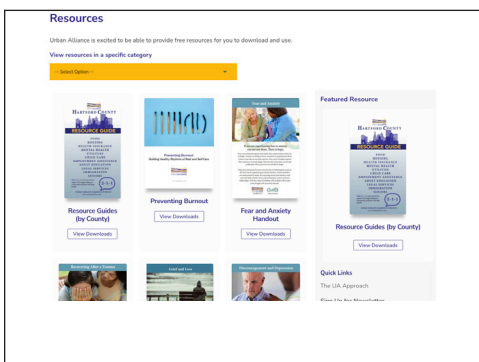
The Urban Alliance Website is the most up-to-date resource for Program Development Opportunities and other resources. Below, we highlight a few of the most frequently requested pages and resources.



UA Network Resource Dashboard:

We've collected all of the most relevant links for Urban Alliance Network Partners in one place. This is the page to go to for downloading a copy of this catalog, view the UA Network events calendar, link to grants and grant resources, find out more about available toolkits and more. If you are going to bookmark an Urban Alliance web page, make it this one!

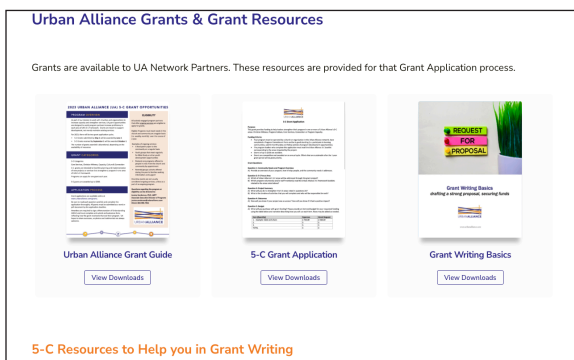
urbanalliance.com/ua-network-resources/



Free Resource Library:

Launched at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to share critical and timely resources, this section of our website has now grown to encompass most of the free resources that Urban Alliance has produced. Whether you are looking for resources to share with individuals you work with, or if your organization is looking for resources to help you serve better, they all can be found here.

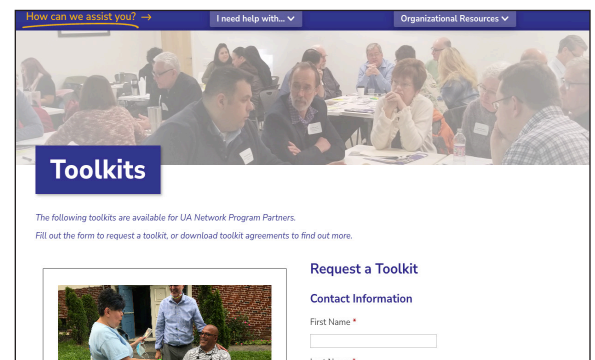
urbanalliance.com/resources



Grants:

Find the current UA Grant Guide, a grant writing resource booklet, and other UA grant materials here.

urbanalliance.com/grants



Toolkits:

Toolkit agreements and descriptions, as well as an online request form are available on the UA website.

urbanalliance.com/toolkits



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