

Frequently Asked Questions

United Way of Greater Plymouth County and United Way of Greater New Bedford have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to pursue a merger of our two organizations, with an intended effective date of January 1, 2027.

This represents an important step toward bringing our organizations together. We have made significant progress in the due diligence and planning process and are working through the remaining legal, financial, governance, operational, programmatic, and organizational considerations.

We understand that a change of this nature may raise questions. We have developed the following FAQs to provide information about what the merger means and what you can expect as the process continues.

We are committed to keeping you informed as the process moves forward and will share additional information as plans are finalized.

Why are the organizations pursuing a merger?

The merger provides an opportunity to build on the strengths of both organizations, bring resources and expertise together, strengthen operations, and increase our collective ability to respond to community needs. The potential benefits of bringing our organizations together include:

- Greater access to programs, resources, and support
- Stronger connections among community organizations and services
- Expanded opportunities to address emerging needs
- More coordinated and responsive community-based services
 - A stronger foundation for long-term impact and sustainability

Will current programs and services continue?

Yes. There are no immediate changes to existing programs or services as a result of the LOI. Both organizations will continue their current work while preparations for the merger continue. We will continue our local impact as we continue to expand our reach to communities in need.

Will the United Way name change?

A final legal name has not yet been determined. Decisions regarding the name and branding of the combined organization are part of the planning process. Information will be shared once those decisions are finalized. The temporary name will be United Way of Greater New Bedford and Plymouth County.

Will current partnerships and funding arrangements change?

There are no immediate changes to existing partnership or funding arrangements during the transition. Any future changes will be directly communicated to our partners.

What does this mean for donors and supporters?

There are no immediate changes to current giving or support arrangements. We are committed to honoring donor designations and maintaining the trust that has been placed in our organizations. As plans develop, we will communicate openly and directly with our donors regarding opportunities with the merged organization.

What does this mean for volunteers?

There are no immediate changes to volunteer opportunities. Volunteers remain an important part of our work, and we look forward to continuing to engage volunteers throughout the transition and into the future.

What will happen to the staff?

The staff will remain intact. Decisions regarding the future organizational structure are part of the planning process and will be communicated to employees as we have information as the two organizations are integrated.

How far along is the process?

We have made significant progress since signing the LOI and are well into the due diligence and planning process. There are still important steps to complete before the merger can become legally effective. Our priority is continuity, transparency and building a stronger community to increase community impact throughout our region.

How will I receive updates?

We will continue to communicate important updates through email, our websites, social media, and other appropriate channels. We encourage you to stay connected with us as we move through this process.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

We welcome questions and value your interest in the future of our organizations and community. Please contact Carole Martyn, Interim President and CEO at United Way of Greater Plymouth County or Michelle Hantman, President and CEO at United Way of Greater New Bedford with any questions or comments.