



United Community Center
Centro de la Comunidad Unida

Celebrating 55 Years of Impact

A Legacy in Our Hands



2024-2025 Annual Report

Celebrating 55 Years of Service:

A Legacy in Our Hands

As we celebrate **55 years of unwavering commitment** to our community, we reflect on the legacy we hold in our hands. Every hand tells a story, and every story shapes the future. For more than five decades, UCC has stood as a beacon of hope and opportunity, empowering individuals and families through comprehensive social services. This journey of impact and growth has been made possible by the dedication and generosity of our donors, partners, and volunteers. Your steadfast belief in our mission has fueled our ability to serve, innovate, and expand. We are deeply grateful for **55 years of trust, advocacy, and support**.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding our impact and carrying forward the stories that shape tomorrow. **A legacy in our hands, a future within reach**— here's to **55 years of transformative service and to many more years of impact ahead!**

In gratitude,

Patricia M. Whaley

Patricia Whaley
Board Chair

Laura E. Gutiérrez

Laura Gutiérrez
CEO



Mission

To transform the lives of Hispanics, families and individuals of all ages by providing the highest quality comprehensive services in education, human services, health, community development, and cultural arts.

Vision

An empowered and thriving Hispanic community where all achieve their full potential.



Empowering Families and Building Community:

Our Story



Nurturing Little Learners



Fueling the Potential of Young Leaders.



Igniting a Lifelong Love of Learning



Encouraging Inquisitive and Curious Minds



Empowering Healthy Communities



Uplifting the Whole Family



Renewing Lives Through Recovery



Honoring Our Elders



Building Strong Foundations



Supporting Every Step of Life's Journey – From six weeks to 106, we're here for every milestone, empowering individuals and families to thrive.

Transforming Lives: 55 Years of Impact in Action



15,000
clients served in 2024

1,755
students enrolled
in UCC K-8 schools

98%
of UCC students are
Hispanic

3 campuses
covering 8 city blocks



**# of students supported
through Pre-College Program**



678
high school
students

130
college students



95% of UCC alumni graduate high
school in 4 years



563
total
employees



72%
of UCC alumni
pursue higher
education

638
people supported
on their recovery
journey



\$378,567,659
invested back into the community via home
sales through UCC's First-time Homebuyer
Program since the program's inception



65
corporate
sponsors

605 seniors served monthly across UCC's Elderly and
Family Care Programs

Meet Bahir: Finding Confidence in the Classroom

When three-year-old Bahir first stepped into UCC's Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy, he was shy and cautious, clinging to his mother's side. Coming from a large, Spanish-speaking family, the transition to an English-speaking classroom felt overwhelming. Though his older brothers spoke English, his parents did not, making the experience even more intimidating. Because of this, UCC has at least one bilingual staff in each classroom and utilizes curriculum designed to support English Language Learners which includes vocabulary words labeled in both English and Spanish throughout the classroom, and using sound repetition.

While his English was improving, his teachers recognized his continued hesitation in the classroom and took a creative and nurturing approach. They discovered his passion for cars, fire trucks, and playing doctor, weaving these interests into classroom activities. Through engaging dramatic play, Bahir slowly opened up—each interaction building his confidence and excitement for learning. But the support didn't stop there. UCC stepped in to help his entire family, providing food, clothing, and school supplies to ease financial struggles. His teacher even sent home special winter break activities, ensuring his learning continued beyond the classroom.

The transformation was remarkable. The once-timid boy now eagerly participates, his laughter and energy filling the room. His parents, deeply grateful, know their son is in a place where he is nurtured, encouraged, and empowered. Bahir's journey proves that with the right support, a little creativity, and a whole lot of heart, a child's confidence can soar—opening doors to a brighter future.



Little Learners, Big Futures: Early Childhood Education Initiative

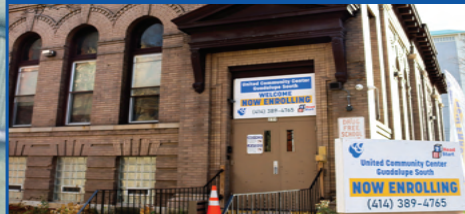
United Community Center (UCC) believes every child deserves **high-quality early childhood education**. Our year-round programs, including Head Start and Early Head Start, nurture social, emotional, and intellectual growth for children from six weeks to four-years old. To meet the growing demand, we are expanding into the Burnham Park neighborhood, ensuring more families have access to exceptional early learning experiences that build a strong foundation for lifelong success.

“Staff and teachers have been excellent resources and support in helping me raise my son. I could not ask for better caregivers and teachers!”

Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy
(0-3 years)



Guadalupe South Early Learning Academy (0-3 years)



Burnham Early Learning Academy
(0-3 years)



Bruce-Guadalupe Community School (4-5 years)



Success at a Glance

17

UCC staff received early childhood education certificates through a strategic partnership with MATC to build a pipeline of passionate Early Childhood Education professionals.

97%

of parents praise the exceptional quality of our early childhood education program, rating it above 4 out of 5.

497

children enrolled across all campuses, ensuring they receive high-quality early learning experiences that build strong foundations for academic and social success.

378

dual language learners gaining critical language skills that enhance cognitive development.

97%

of children up to date on immunizations and 493 children secured a source of healthcare.

75%

of Early Learning Students (0-4 years) are on target in all learning objectives, including literacy, math, social emotional and cognitive.



UCC's Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy Achieved 5-star Rating!

Rated by WI YoungStar

Igniting a Love of Learning: Inside UCC Schools

UCC schools, independent public charter schools, are transforming student success through rigorous academics, high expectations, and parent engagement, while preparing students for future academic and professional success. Comprehensive support systems enhance student growth through summer learning, afterschool programs, and holistic resources, including on-site health clinics and social-emotional support. UCC schools provide a nurturing environment that fosters cultural heritage and intellectual, social, and emotional development, empowering students to excel in high school, college, and future careers.

“UCC has been an integral part of our child’s development, while fostering his unique talents and building character. I especially like the UCC style of utilizing different methods for children depending on their preferred style of learning. We are so grateful to have educators that offer such specialized support for our youth.”



Bruce-Guadalupe Community School (BGCS, K-8th grade)

Acosta Middle School
(6-8th grade)

Success at a Glance

#1 Wisconsin Charter School:

BGCS earned the highest overall report card score among charter schools.

BGCS students **performed better than** Hispanic students statewide in all but one subject.

UCC Acosta 8th grade students **surpassed the state average** in math proficiency.

Class sizes strategically **reduced** to **20-24** students in all K-8 classrooms.

More than **1,000 students** regularly take part in expanded afterschool programs.

85% staff retention rate, with **89%** of teachers having three or more years of experience.



**Bruce-Guadalupe Community School
Significantly Exceeds Expectations**
From 2024 WI DPI State Report Card



**UCC Acosta Middle School
Exceeds Expectations**
From 2024 WI DPI State Report Card



Guiding Youth to Success: Pre-College Program

UCC's Pre-College Program empowers middle and high school students and their families with comprehensive support as they navigate the path to post-secondary education.



Personalized guidance
with college applications



Parent education sessions



Test preparation



Financial aid
assistance and
scholarships

The **UCC College Network** provides continued support for traditionally underserved undergraduate students while enrolled in college, ensuring they have the tools and resources they need to succeed and reach graduation day.



Success at a Glance

100% of 8th graders receive one-on-one guidance on high school selection and applications.

72% of the Class of 2024 seniors enrolled in college following graduation (nationally 32% of Latinos enroll each year).

100% of graduating seniors who applied to college, secured at least one acceptance letter.

95% of UCC alumni graduate high school in 4 years.

Currently supporting more than **600 alumni** in **25+** high schools around Milwaukee.

Top 5 High Schools Attended



Top 5 Colleges Attended



Building Strong Foundations: First-Time Homebuyer Program

UCC believes in the power of homeownership to transform lives, create stability, and build generational wealth. Through group seminars and one-on-one counseling, UCC helps more families and individuals achieve the dream of homeownership, setting themselves and their families on the path for financial stability for generations to come.

Meet Alandra: Finding Stability and a Bright Future

Alandra dreamed of providing her first child with more than just a place to live—she wanted a true home, a space of stability and belonging. Renting for years on Milwaukee’s southside, she knew it was time to take the next step and turned to UCC’s First-Time Homebuyer Program for guidance.

First, Alandra gained crucial knowledge about financial preparation, working with lenders, and navigating the homebuying process. Sessions empowered her to move forward with confidence. From there, she worked closely with her Homebuyer Counselor, who provided one-on-one support, guiding her through every challenge. With the support of the program, Alandra secured a \$10,000 first-time homebuyer grant, allowing her to make important updates to her new home.

Alandra achieved her dream—closing on her first home in a safe, welcoming neighborhood. Now, she is preparing the space for her child’s arrival, creating a warm and nurturing environment for the future. More than just a home, this is an investment in her family’s stability, financial security, and long-term success.



“Everyone made the process so much easier, and I couldn’t be happier. I plan to recommend this program to others!”

Success at a Glance

Since 2004 Program Inception:

\$378,567,659 invested back into the community through home purchases.

2,782 home purchases.

In 2024:

357 home purchases.

96% of first-time homebuyers in UCC’s program earn less than Milwaukee’s average median income.

268 down payment grants awarded.

\$12,661.30 average down payment assistance grants per household through UCC’s program.



Renewing Lives Through Recovery:

UCC Human Services

UCC is transforming lives through compassionate treatment and recovery services for individuals facing substance use disorders.

Comprehensive residential programs provide 24-hour, personalized care—including counseling, medication-assisted treatment, and creative therapies—designed to nurture healing for men, women, and families alike.

Flexible outpatient and day treatment services offer dynamic group and individual counseling, life skills education, and mental health support to bolster each client's journey toward lasting recovery.

UCC's Recovery Support Coordination connects clients with essential health education and primary care, ensuring a seamless continuum of support that inspires hope and resilience.

Meet Molly: Triumph Over Addiction and a Journey to Self-Discovery

Before enrolling at UCC's residential treatment program, the grip of Fentanyl-addiction controlled Molly's daily life.

"Due to the mess I made of things, I knew I had to change in order to find a life worth living again." UCC was the lifeline that propelled Molly through a haze of numbness and desperate cycle she was in. Through UCC's residential treatment program, she worked with counselors to confront the choices she made under the influence of drugs.

It wasn't all smooth sailing. Every day in addiction and every day in recovery had its challenges and rewards. Amidst the struggle, a newfound identity emerged—one of strength, bravery, beauty, and kindness. With her health restored and relationships rekindled, Molly cherishes the discovery of her true essence—a journey to self-love and acceptance.



Success at a Glance

A transformative **\$2.9M grant** will construct a new men's residential home, expanding our reach to 90 additional clients annually.

638 clients supported on their life-changing journey of recovery.

Peer Support Program launched pairing individuals who have triumphed over addiction with those actively seeking recovery, fostering peer-to-peer mentorship and hope.

Provided support to **132 children** while parents attended treatment services.

54 Days Average length of stay in residential treatment.

52 total zip codes served, with majority of clients in **53204** and **53215**.



Honoring our Seniors:

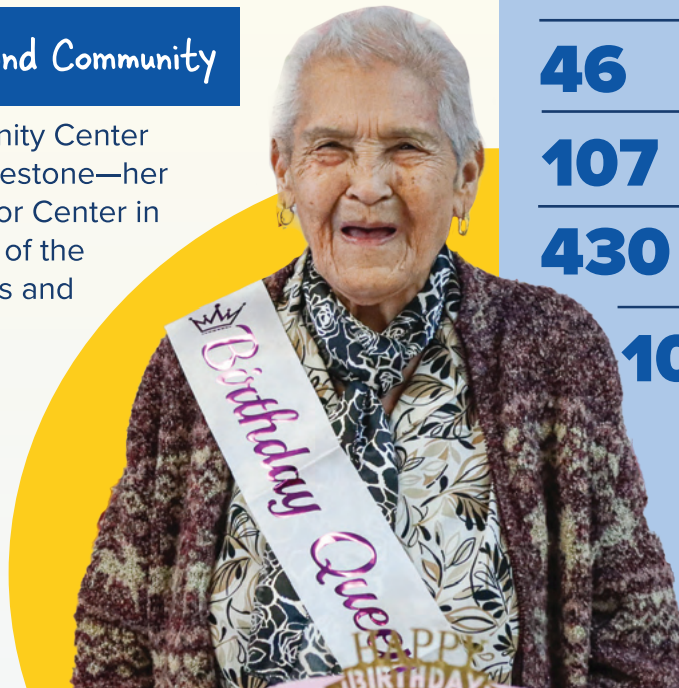
Programs for a Thriving Elderly Community

At UCC, we believe every golden year should shine with joy, dignity, and community. Our **Senior Center** offers a vibrant, culturally sensitive space where older Latino adults enjoy nourishing meals, engaging activities, and socialization. The **Adult Day Center** and **Community Care Family Care Program** provide personalized, home-like support for frail elders and those with disabilities, ensuring compassionate care and respite. With specialized services like our bilingual **Memory Clinic** and **affordable senior housing**, UCC creates a nurturing environment that empowers seniors to thrive and embrace each day with confidence. **Transportation services** to and from our centers helps seniors maintain independence and continue attending the Adult Day Center and Senior Center with reliable transportation.

Meet Juanita: A Century of Wisdom and Community

Juanita, a cherished member of the United Community Center Senior Center, recently celebrated an incredible milestone—her 100th birthday. She started attending the UCC Senior Center in March 2010, and has since become an integral part of the community, coming every day to engage in activities and connect with others.

Even at 100 years old, she remains full of energy and enthusiasm, embodying the spirit of an active and engaged life. Staff members admire her energy and dedication, noting how her health has improved through the center's nutrition and fitness programs. Her involvement demonstrates how seniors can thrive, share their talents, and build meaningful relationships at UCC's Senior Center.



Success at a Glance

98% would recommend the program to a friend or family member

97% of survey respondents said they had an increased sense of belonging because of UCC's elderly programs

94% of clients were satisfied with activities

In 2024:

120 clients attended UCC's Senior Center daily

46 clients attended UCC's Adult Day Center daily

107 memory clinic screenings conducted

430 clients served in Community Care Family Care

100s of celebrations, field trips, and special events to stimulate and provide joy to seniors



Senior Center



Adult Day Center



US Bank Village



Olga Village



Empowering Healthy Communities: Community Health Research & Athletics

UCC is dedicated to advancing community health and wellness by promoting active lifestyles, transformative athletic opportunities, and supporting health research.

UCC schools have **on-site health clinics**, in conjunction with Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, to remove barriers in accessing preventative and acute health care for students and their families.

UCC's Athletics Program engages youth and families in activities that promote fitness, teamwork, and lifelong healthy habits. From FIT KIDS for elementary students to a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, volleyball, and the Badges for Baseball program, participants develop athletic skills while reinforcing positive values. A flagship athletic activity is the **UCC Boxing Program**. Through rigorous training, participants gain not only boxing fundamentals but also confidence, perseverance, and a strong work ethic—essential skills for success in life.

The Community Health & Research Program partners with leading universities and local organizations to conduct community-based research and health prevention initiatives, specifically addressing health disparities and improving outcomes for Milwaukee's Latino population.

Success at a Glance

2,407 unique healthcare visits to the UCC Six Street Community Health Center – School Health Center serving more than **840 students**. 

In school clinic aims to keep students healthy and in school with **76.4%** of students returning to class after visit.

3 UCC boxers medaled at the USA Boxing National Championships, including Violet Lopez, who won gold, marking her 11th USA Boxing national championship overall.

More than **1,080 students** participated in afterschool athletics.

All UCC Basketball Teams, including girls and boys basketball for grades 6-8, won **first place** in the Southside Catholic League.

Aired **22 episodes** of La Hora de Salud, a weekly radio show, addressing public health challenges facing the Hispanic community.



SCAN TO WATCH EPISODES!



Helping Hands: Volunteers and Supporters Make all the Difference

For 55 years, UCC's success has relied on the dedicated and passionate support of our volunteers, donors and Board of Directors. Together, they create a powerful network of advocacy and service, driving UCC forward in our vision of a thriving community where all achieve their full potential.

How You Can Help:

Give

As a nonprofit charity, UCC relies on donations to provide our critical programs and services to the tens of thousands of people who rely on us each year.

Donate Today!



Volunteer

We offer opportunities year-round, from tutoring students to facilitating and leading activities with our seniors and reading with our preschoolers.

Find out more and explore current opportunities!



Spread the Word

We believe in the work of UCC and hope you do too. Help us shout it from the rooftops!

1. Follow us on Social Media



@UCCMKE



@UNITEDCC



United Community Center

2. Join our mailing list



3. Tell your friends about us!

Dine at Café el Sol

Join us for our Friday night Fish Fry with live music or pick up a quick and tasty lunch from Café el Sol, located inside UCC. Café el Sol provides meals and services that help fuel all the different programs at UCC.



Board of Directors

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Patricia M. Whaley
Chair

Luis Arroyo
Vice Chair

Jorge Saucedo
Secretary

Scott Hawig
Treasurer

Camilla Adelman
Community Volunteer

Luis Arroyo
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP

Mary Beth Berkes
Shorewood Group LLC

Marlene Castillo
Johnson Financial Group

Peter Coffey
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP

Tom Ellis
Community Volunteer

Ana Esper
Regal Rexnord Corporation

Raquel Filmanowicz
VC 414

Danny Garcia-Velez
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Chris Goller
PNC Bank

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Froedtert Health

Julio Henriquez
Wisconsin Center District

Alicia Kiser
M3 Insurance

Mike Kopischkie
Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc.

Sodi Nichols
US Bank

Bill O'Toole
Catholic Financial Life

Denisse Pachuca
BMO

Thomas Richtman
Retired, US Bank

Jorge F. Saucedo
Froedtert Health System

Alexandra Urrutia-Comas
Aurora Health Care

Maclovio Vega
Northwestern Mutual

Patricia M. Whaley
Retired, Zurn Water Solutions Corp.

Suzanne York
WEC Energy Group

Marian Zincke
Copeland

Board Emeritus Members

Michael Byrnes

Patty Cadorin

Cristy Garcia-Thomas

Susan Martin

Gus Ramirez

Mary Alice Tierney

We cherish the memories of long-time UCC Board Chair and UCC leader **José Olivieri.**



Meet Sophia:

From Stress to Success

Sophia, a 7th grader at Bruce-Guadalupe Middle School (BGMS), has been part of UCC Schools since kindergarten. Though she earned good grades, last year her science teacher noticed she often shut down in class, struggling with stress, especially during tests like the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) exams.

Concerned, her teachers, specialists, and parents united to create a personalized support plan. They introduced calming techniques, structured breaks, snacks, rewards, and regular check-ins to help her build resilience. Progress was slow, with setbacks along the way, but Sophia's determination grew. By year's end, she no longer gave up—tackling challenges independently with newfound confidence.

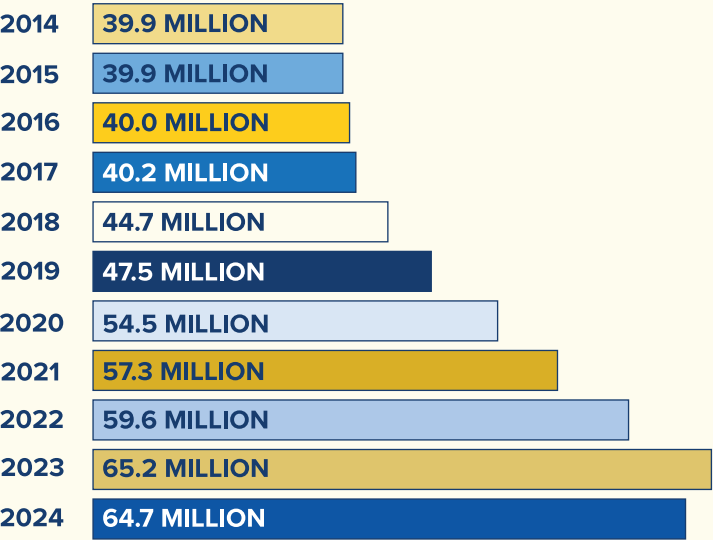
This year, Sophia continues to thrive. A teacher notes, "She's learned to manage stress, and it's transformed her academic performance." Her hard work paid off—her MAP scores soared, with an 8-point gain in reading and 7-point gain in math. More importantly, she is happier, more self-assured, and embracing challenges.

Sophia's journey is a testament to BGMS's whole-child approach—where school and family collaborate to nurture academic success, emotional well-being, and personal growth. With her teachers and family cheering her on, Sophia is looking ahead, ready to dream big.

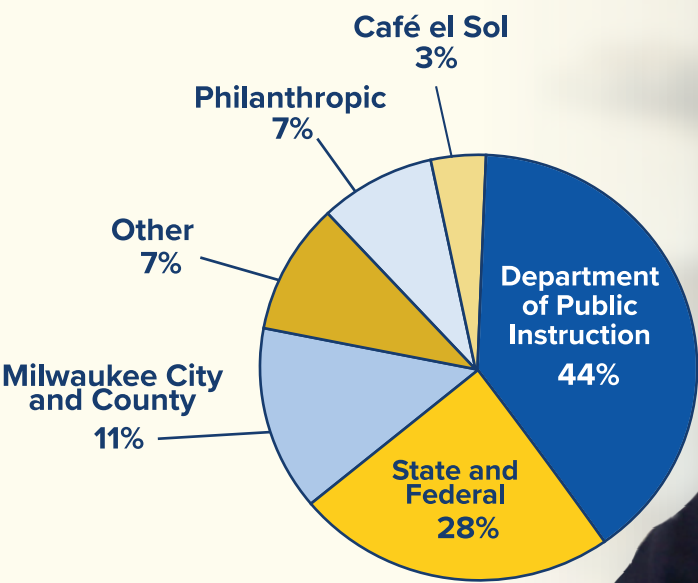


Finances

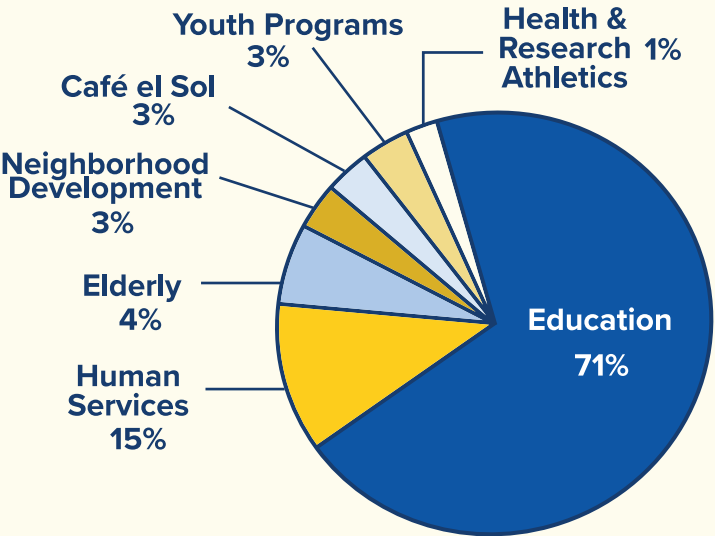
Agency Assets (\$)



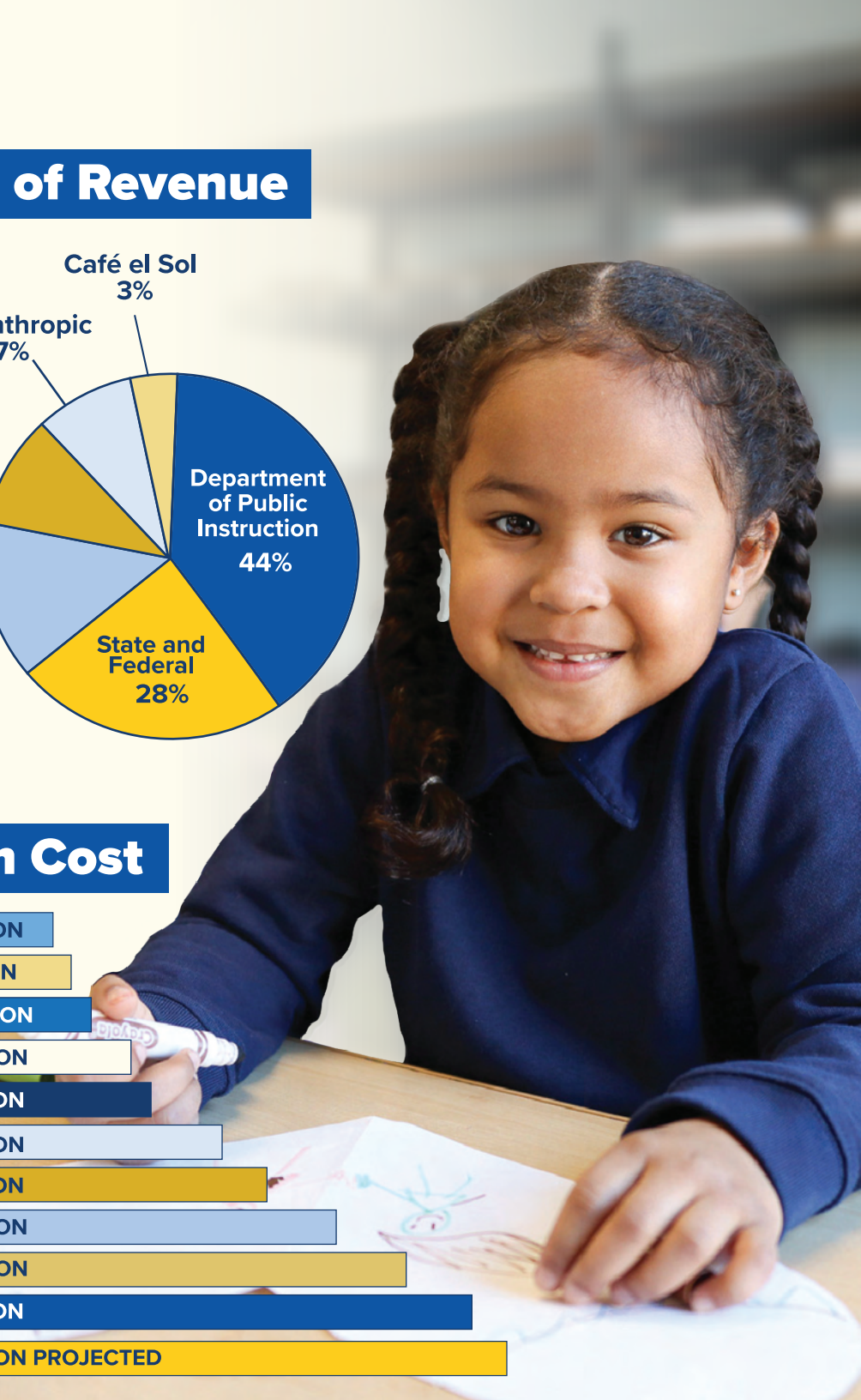
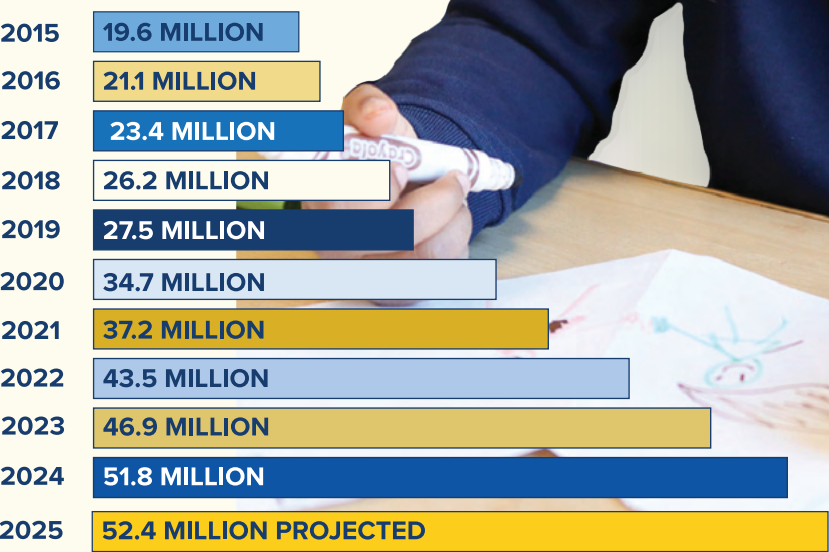
Sources of Revenue



2024 Budget



Program Cost





 **United Community Center**
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 www.unitedcc.org

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