



The Facts on United Way 2-1-1

United Way 2-1-1 is an easy to remember phone number that connects individuals with resources in the Mobile, Washington and Clarke county communities with future service planned for Choctaw and Monroe Counties.

With approximately 1.5 million nonprofit organizations in the United States plus scores of government agencies, finding help can be confusing and intimidating. Our local United Way 2-1-1 center is staffed by trained specialists who will quickly assess the callers' needs and refer them to the help they seek. 2-1-1 is simple to remember and accessible to everyone.

United Way 2-1-1 enables people to get help or give help.

United Way 2-1-1 offers information on a broad range of services, including utility assistance, counseling services, finding a tutor, senior adult services, volunteer opportunities, substance abuse education, donations, temporary shelter, mentor a child, food bank, health resources and much more. Specialists at our United Way 2-1-1 center will facilitate thousands of volunteer hours and direct donors to locations where their gifts may be most needed and appropriate.

United Way 2-1-1 benefits the nation and helps the gulf coast region.

United Way 2-1-1 has been locally designed by community stakeholders who are aware of our local and state needs and resources. United Way 2-1-1 is part of the community fabric, employs local citizens, and serves the local community. Businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government officials support United Way 2-1-1 as a way to improve the lives of the residents in our communities. As of January 1, 2007, 2-1-1 was available to over 190 million Americans – approximately 65% of the U.S. population – with more than two hundred active 2-1-1 systems operating in 41 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

United Way 2-1-1 enhances public safety and crisis recovery efforts.

From hurricanes and floods to bio-terrorism, United Way 2-1-1 call centers that already exist in communities are the logical platform for building emergency response communication capacity. In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, hundreds of thousands of Louisiana, Texas and Alabama residents called 2-1-1 with a multitude of needs, including shelter, transportation, medical, food and water, construction materials, mental health, and questions about the availability of and application process for federal, state, and nonprofit assistance. 9-1-1 referred non-emergency calls to United Way 2-1-1, freeing up 9-1-1 operators for life-and-death situations.

United Way 2-1-1 is a private-public partnership.

United Way 2-1-1 is funded through local and state sources including local United Ways and other non-profits, foundations, businesses, and state and local government. The Calling for 2-1-1 Act seeks to authorize federal funding of \$150 million for years one and two, and \$100 million for years three through five through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help implement and sustain 2-1-1 nationwide. States would be required to provide a 50% match in order to draw down the federal dollars.

For additional information, contact Kerry Cohen, Director of Marketing and Communications, United Way of Southwest Alabama, kcohen@uwsa.org or call 251-433-3624



P.O. Box 91068 | Mobile, Alabama 36691-1068 | uwsa.org

uwsa211.org