



Frequently Asked Questions

United Way of Greater New Bedford (UWGNB) and United Way of Greater Plymouth County (UWGPC) are working toward becoming a single, stronger United Way serving a larger, connected region. Our missions are aligned, our service areas are geographically contiguous, and by coming together we can expand our community impact, reach, and influence; strengthen organizational capacity; and better position the organization for long-term sustainability. Significant work remains, but our shared commitment remains unchanged.

Where does the merger stand?

UWGNB and UWGPC have signed a Letter of Intent and drafted a merger agreement. We are working toward an anticipated **January 1, 2027** effective date, subject to remaining legal, regulatory, governance, and United Way Worldwide approvals.

Building on an existing collaborative relationship, UWGNB has provided financial administration and marketing support to UWGPC through a shared services agreement since January 2026.

Why are we merging?

Together, we can:

- Strengthen programs, partnerships, and fundraising
- Build greater financial and operational capacity
- Increase reach, influence, and fundraising capacity
- Increase our ability to convene partners and drive regional solutions
- Create a larger platform for volunteer engagement and leadership

What will the new organization look like?

UWGNB will remain the legal entity and expand its territory to include the communities currently served by UWGPC. The temporary name will be **United Way of Greater New Bedford and Plymouth County**; a final legal name has not yet been determined.

A new 25-member board is expected, with 16 representatives from UWGNB and 9 from UWGPC.

Will becoming a larger organization make us less local?

UWGNB remains committed to delivering the programs, events and services that you know and love. Greater scale can actually provide more capacity to remain responsive locally. Our goal is to be regional in reach and local in impact, maintaining strong local relationships and understanding of community needs.

What will happen to programs and services?

Existing programs, services, commitments, and relationships will continue. The merger will create opportunities to expand programs over time based on community needs, resources, and organizational capacity.



What will happen to employees?

No staffing reductions are planned as part of the merger. Staff from both organizations are expected to remain part of the combined organization, although responsibilities, reporting relationships, and titles may evolve with the integration of the two organizations.

What communities will we serve?

UWGNB serves nine communities in our region. The merger will expand the service area to 31 communities to include the 22 cities and towns currently within the UWGPC region.

What does this mean for donors?

The merger will create more opportunities for donors to make a difference across a larger region while strengthening the local work they already care about.

Donors will continue to have choices about how they direct their support, including the option to designate a gift to a particular nonprofit, program, or community.

For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, campaign contributions designated to UWGNB and UWGPC will continue to be tracked and managed separately to ensure continuity and transparency throughout the transition.

What does the merger mean for funded partners?

Existing commitments and relationships will be respected and maintained during the transition. Funded partners should continue following their current grant agreements unless notified otherwise.

What will change and what will stay the same?

Stay the same: our commitment to mission and community impact, existing programs and services during the transition, staff, community relationships, and commitments to donors, volunteers, and funded partners.

Change over time: geographic reach, governance, organizational systems, operations, name/brand, and opportunities to expand programs, fundraising, and regional partnerships.

What happens next?

Between now and the anticipated **January 1, 2027** merger date, we will finalize the merger agreement, complete legal and regulatory requirements, finalize governance, and plan organizational integration. We will also begin to align systems and infrastructure, identify opportunities for program and service expansion, and begin to design the future of the combined organization.

Our priority throughout the process is continuity, transparency, and building a stronger organization that increases community impact.

Our commitment to all the people and communities we serve remains our highest priority. Bringing together talented staff, volunteers, programs, partnerships, and resources will create opportunities for greater impact and a stronger organization.