



What is the United Way of Illinois Equity Challenge?

The United Way of Illinois Equity Challenge is a 21 week program that encourages Illinois residents to engage in racial equity conversations to gain a deeper understanding about the impact systemic racism and inequity have on our state and in our local communities. United, we can help create a stronger, more equitable Illinois economy and stronger, more inclusive Illinois communities.

When does the Equity Challenge begin and end?

The United Way of Illinois Equity Challenge begins on **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** on Jan. 18, 2021 and ends the week of [Juneteenth](#) on June 19, 2021.

How does the Equity Challenge work?

1. Participants begin the **100% Free Challenge** by completing the sign-up form at <http://unitedwayillinois.org/equity-challenge>. Participants will be asked to complete a pre-survey after signing up.
2. Participants will receive one email per week for 21 weeks, beginning on January 18, 2021 and ending the week of June 19, 2021. Each weekly email will contain information, links to articles, videos, and more about a specific equity topic.
3. Participants get involved in the Challenge by spending approximately 15 minutes per week on different activities that provide the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the equity issues we face in our state and local communities.
4. At the end of the Challenge, participants will receive ideas on actions they can take to improve equity issues in their community, and they will receive a printable certificate, digital badge, and tips and tools to help continue the conversation in their local community.

Is the Equity Challenge an activity for individuals or groups of people – co-workers, families, friends, etc.?

The Challenge is a perfect activity for personal growth that can be achieved in a self-guided experience OR a shared experience among groups of people. Corporate ERGs and BRGs are encouraged to participate in the challenge as a group to help build more equitable and inclusive work environments.



Do I have to pay to participate?

No, the challenge is 100% free to participate.

Can I start the challenge after the January 18, 2021 start date?

Yes, you can sign up to participate in the Challenge at any time. New content will go live on a weekly basis. Participants will have access to all content after it is live and there is no requirement to complete the assigned tasks every week. The most important thing is to get involved and engaged in the content – you can complete the Challenge activities at your own pace.

What is United Way’s goal in offering the Equity Challenge to all Illinois residents?

United Way of Illinois and our network of 44 United Ways across the state want to be a healing voice for the State of Illinois. We recognize there is significant need for us as individuals and organizations to gain a better understanding of how inequity and racism impact so many of our neighbors and to learn what we can do to dismantle all forms of oppression. The United Way of Illinois Equity Challenge is designed to be a powerful opportunity for shared learning, action, and growth. United Way hopes that this experience will deepen understanding and help launch what we hope will be a lifelong commitment to improving equity and inclusion.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

Email info@UnitedWayIllinois.org for more information.

Where can I go to learn about racial equity events in my local community?

Healing Illinois has compiled a calendar of events taking place across the state. Visit the [Healing Illinois Events Calendar](#) to find a racial equity event in or near your local community.



United Way
of Rock River Valley

United Way of Rock River Valley – a proud member of United Way of Illinois.