

2025 Community Impact Application

Each year United Way provides the opportunity for non-profit organizations providing human services in Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Ralls, or Shelby Counties to apply to become a Community Impact Agency.

Community Impact Agencies benefit financially from the United Way's Annual Campaign, but are also granted a membership into the United Way providing additional publicity opportunities, notoriety, training, and more. This application is to apply for the distinction as a Community Impact Agency from May of 2024 to April of 2025.

In order to be eligible to apply, the work of organizations must align with United Way's areas of focus and priority areas. In depth information on those can be found on the United Way website at <http://unitedwaymta.org/community-impact>

Applications and all required documents are due to United Way by Saturday, February 15th at 11:59pm.

Email *

jforemanscc@gmail.com

Agency Name

Shelby County Cares

Agency Director

Jolie Foreman

Director E-mail

jforemanscc@gmail.com

Agency Address

100 W Maple St

City, St, Zip

Clarence, Mo 63437

Agency Phone Number

573-494-2280

Website

<https://www.shelbycountycare.org/>

EIN

93-2293509

Fiscal Year Start and End Date

Application Contact Name

Jolie Foreman

Application Contact E-mail Address

jforemanscc@gmail.com

Application Contact Phone Number

573-231-6026

I certify I have the authority to submit this application on behalf of the organization.

☒ Yes

Organization's Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life for children, youth, and adults through supportive services.

Organization's Vision Statement

We envision a compassionate community where mental health is prioritized, families are supported, and individuals facing crises can access the resources and care they need to thrive.

Provide a 25-word summary of your organization.

SCC provides suicide prevention, mental health support, and crisis-intervention through education, outreach, and direct services, ensuring access to rural mental health care & family support.

How many dollars are you applying for from the United Way of the Mark Twain Area?

\$8,728

Are you currently receiving dollars from the United Way of the Mark Twain Area?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Have you ever received dollars from the United Way of the Mark Twain Area?

☐ Yes

☒ No

What is your organization applying for funding from United Way for?

☒ Specific Project/Program - dollars will be designated to only be utilized for a specific purpose.

☐ General Support - dollars will be considered general revenue to the organization.

If applying for dollars for a specific project/program, name of the project/program.

Nurturing Parenting Program

Give a **brief** overview of the program(s) your organization implements. Provide headings above each program.

*****If applying for specific project/program dollars give the overview of that project/program FIRST*****

Shelby County Cares (SCC) seeks funding to implement the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP), an evidence-based initiative designed to strengthen families, reduce child abuse and neglect, and equip parents with essential skills for fostering healthy relationships. Currently, Shelby County lacks structured parenting support programs, leaving families without the resources needed to break cycles of trauma.

United Way funding will support the pilot launch, covering facilitator training, curriculum acquisition, outreach, and two 10-week parenting groups serving 20 parents and caregivers. Participants will gain hands-on tools for positive discipline, emotional regulation, and child development, replacing punitive discipline with nurturing approaches that support child well-being.

Shelby County faces high poverty rates, food insecurity, and child welfare involvement, contributing to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Many families lack access to early intervention resources, leading to increased reliance on crisis services such as foster care and child protective services. Without structured education, generational cycles of neglect and instability persist.

This program will provide structured parenting education to equip families with tools to create safe, stable home environments. Funding will allow more parents to access trauma-informed education, reducing reliance on intervention services, decreasing out-of-home placements, and ensuring children remain with their families.

By investing in early intervention and skill-building, SCC takes a proactive approach to child welfare and family stability. This program will empower parents, prevent crisis situations, and create stronger, more resilient families for future generations.

What data shows the work you would do with United Way dollars is needed in our community? Share the correlation between the programs you hope to implement with United Way funds and this data. Share the source of the data.

Many families in Shelby County lack access to structured parenting education and early intervention programs, leaving them without the knowledge or support to create safe, nurturing home environments. This is particularly concerning as many parents themselves grew up in unstable or broken homes, perpetuating cycles of adversity.

Data Highlights Urgent Need for Family Support Services

According to Missouri Kids Count 2024 and the DSS Child and Neglect Annual Report:

- Shelby County's child abuse and neglect rate is 15.7 per 1,000 children—far exceeding the state average of 2.7 per 1,000 and signaling ongoing risks to child well-being.
- 6.8 per 1,000 children enter state custody, highlighting the pressing need for family preservation efforts.
- 24.2% of children receive SNAP benefits, demonstrating widespread economic hardship.

Despite these challenges, Shelby County lacks trauma-informed parenting programs to help caregivers break cycles of abuse, neglect, and punitive discipline practices. Many families experience multi-generational trauma, increasing the risk of Adverse Childhood Experiences and child welfare involvement.

How SCC Will Address This Critical Gap

UW funding will allow SCC to implement the NPP, an evidence-based, trauma-informed initiative designed to empower parents with essential skills, including:

- Positive discipline strategies to replace punitive approaches.
- Emotional regulation techniques to improve parent-child relationships.
- Healthy attachment-building practices that promote child well-being.

Creating Generational Change

Beyond benefiting individual families, NPP fosters long-term transformation. Research (Gross et al., 2023) shows that children raised in stable, nurturing environments develop healthier coping mechanisms, complete their education, and build strong family relationships. By equipping parents with conflict resolution strategies, nonviolent discipline methods, and active listening skills, NPP reduces child maltreatment, prevents state intervention, and strengthens family resilience.

Expanding access to parenting education provides trauma-informed, culturally responsive support, reducing the risks of child removal, intergenerational trauma, and economic instability. NPP equips caregivers with practical, research-backed tools to build stable households. By strengthening parental capacity today, we lay the foundation for lasting community change, ensuring positive parenting practices endure for generations.

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How does your organization measure the success of the programs it implements in the community? What kind of change/improvement does your organization anticipate seeing in the community by doing your work?

SCC will measure program success through qualitative and quantitative approaches: evidence-based assessments, participant feedback, and long-term impact tracking to evaluate changes in family dynamics, child welfare involvement, and community resilience. By integrating pre- and post-program assessments, behavioral self-reports, and follow-up evaluations, we will ensure families develop and sustain skills for safe, nurturing home environments.

Key Success Metrics for the Nurturing Parenting Program:

- Pre- and Post-Parenting Assessments: Using the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory, we will measure changes in parenting attitudes, discipline strategies, and emotional regulation.
- Participant Retention & Completion Rates: We aim for 85% of parents to complete all sessions, ensuring maximum program impact.
- Reduction in Child Welfare Involvement: We will compare substantiated child abuse/neglect rates among program participants vs. non-participants to assess whether families completing NPP are less likely to enter the child welfare system.
- Parent Feedback & Satisfaction Surveys: Through surveys and interviews, we will evaluate parent's confidence in discipline, communication, and emotional bonding with their children.

Ongoing impact assessments will track how children of participating families benefit from improved parenting over time. Success will be reflected in fewer child welfare cases, greater emotional security for children, and the adoption of nonviolent discipline, breaking cycles of trauma.

Anticipated Community-Level Improvements:

- Reduction in child neglect/maltreatment cases, leading to fewer children entering foster care (measured through local child welfare data).
- Increased emotional regulation among parents, decreasing punitive discipline and household conflict (observed through participant feedback and evaluations).
- Stronger family relationships that support positive child development and lessen reliance on intervention services.
- Expanded access to parenting education, ensuring rural Shelby County families receive the tools needed to break generational trauma cycles.

By continuously analyzing these outcomes, SCC will ensure its programs remain effective, adaptable, and responsive to the evolving needs of families in our community.

Are there other organizations in our community addressing the same need and implementing similar programs who serve the same geographic area as your organization?

While some agencies provide child welfare services or mental health support, no organization in Shelby County offers a prevention-focused, structured parenting education program like the NPP. Families at risk of child welfare involvement often struggle to find accessible, evidence-based parenting education designed to prevent crises, reduce maltreatment, and strengthen family stability.

Gaps in Existing Services:

- Missouri Children's Division investigates abuse and neglect but does not offer structured parenting education or early intervention to help families before crises occur.
- Mental health providers in surrounding counties may offer therapy, but no local programs focus on nurturing discipline, emotional regulation, and behavioral management. Families seeking such services must often travel 30-60 minutes, creating barriers to access.
- Other social service agencies provide referrals but lack hands-on, skill-based parenting programs that proactively equip caregivers with the tools to create stable home environments.

How SCC Fills This Critical Gap:

- Structured, research-based parenting education to teach positive discipline, emotional regulation, and communication skills.
- Community-based learning opportunities to reinforce practical, real-world parenting strategies.
- Direct support for at-risk families who lack access to evidence-based parenting interventions.

Collaboration Without Duplication:

SCC works alongside schools, law enforcement, and child welfare agencies to ensure families access additional services when needed. However, no organization provides a comparable structured program focused on early intervention, parenting education, and family resilience.

By bridging this gap, SCC strengthens families, reduces child maltreatment risks, and creates safer, more nurturing environments for children in our rural community.

If your organization would receive United Way funds, which focus area(s) would your work with these dollars align to?

- ☒ Healthy Community
- ☒ Youth Opportunity
- ☐ Financial Security
- ☐ Community Resiliency

Explain how your work would align with the selected focus area(s). Please ensure you have reviewed how United Way defines these focus areas.

Healthy Community

SCC's NPP aligns with United Way's Healthy Community and Youth Opportunity focus areas by addressing child maltreatment, family stability, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This program helps families build safe, stable environments through trauma-informed education, stress management, and nonviolent discipline techniques.

Research confirms ACEs—such as neglect, substance use, and family instability—significantly increase risks of mental health disorders, chronic illness, and continued cycles of abuse (Felitti et al., 1998; CDC, 2024). Without early intervention, children in high-risk environments face greater emotional and behavioral challenges.

NPP will proactively address these risks by:

- Teaching emotional regulation, stress management, and nonviolent discipline.
- Replacing punitive discipline with positive reinforcement.
- Helping parents build secure attachments and structured, nurturing home environments.

By strengthening parenting skills and family stability, this program will:

- Reduce child maltreatment and neglect, lowering foster care placements.
- Lower household stress and improve mental health, reducing family maltreatment and substance misuse.
- Foster stronger family relationships, creating a healthier community.

Youth Opportunity

Children raised in stable, emotionally secure environments thrive academically, socially, and emotionally (Anda et al., 2006). By equipping parents with nurturing skills, NPP supports positive child development.

This program will:

- Reduce ACEs by minimizing neglect, household substance exposure, and family instability.
- Provide parents with communication skills and positive parenting strategies.
- Improve child development outcomes by reinforcing routines, emotional support, and healthy discipline.
- Enhance social and academic success, improving school performance.
- Reduce behavioral issues and increase resilience.
- Strengthen parent-child relationships, promoting household stability.
- Reduce child maltreatment and child welfare involvement.
- Promote generational change, ensuring children raised in nurturing homes become resilient adults.

United Way's support will allow SCC to expand access to this life-changing program, providing families with essential education and resources to break cycles of trauma and adversity. This initiative will empower parents, protect children, and strengthen our rural community for future generations.

If your organization would receive United Way funds, which priority area(s) would your work with these dollars align to?

- ☒ Supporting Critical Services
- ☒ Providing Opportunities for Upward Mobility

Explain how your work would align with the selected priority area(s). Please ensure you have reviewed how United Way defines these priority areas.

Supporting Critical Services

SCC aligns with United Way's priority areas by providing critical services that support at-risk families and creating opportunities for long-term stability and upward mobility. Through trauma-informed parenting education and early intervention, our programs address family instability, child welfare involvement, and intergenerational poverty, ensuring more resilient families and communities.

SCC will provide essential parenting education and intervention programs that ensure child safety, strengthen family relationships, and support at-risk families navigating crises. The NPP directly addresses the root causes of family instability, including child neglect, substance use, and household conflict, ensuring that parents have adequate skills and resources needed to create safe, healthy home environments. These skills include:

- Positive parenting strategies to reinforce healthy behaviors.
- Emotional regulation techniques to reduce household stress.
- Conflict resolution skills to foster healthier parent-child relationships.

Our program aligns with United Way's commitment to ensuring individuals and families have access to critical services that promote safety, stability, and overall well-being. Parents participating in NPP are more likely to develop stronger attachments with their children, implement nurturing discipline techniques, and reduce the likelihood of future child welfare involvement.

Providing Opportunities for Upward Mobility

Education and skill-building are foundational for breaking cycles of socioeconomic challenges. The NPP provides families with the tools needed to achieve long-term self-sufficiency, including:

- Practical communication skills to strengthen family dynamics.
- Structured parenting routines to provide stability for children.
- Nonviolent discipline methods to replace punitive approaches.

Expanding access to parenting education ensures that families in rural areas with transportation and financial barriers can participate in flexible, accessible learning opportunities. By providing access to parents, they are more likely to :

- Develop confidence, knowledge, and resilience to navigate socioeconomic challenges.
 - Foster emotional security and well-being in their children.
 - Create a foundation for long-term family stability and success.
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Describe the demographic makeup of the clients you would serve with funding from United Way. United Way prioritizes the needs of individuals who are marginalized (individuals living in poverty, minorities, children without parental support, etc.).

Shelby County, Missouri, with 6,000 rural residents, faces economic and social challenges that weaken family stability. Financial hardship, limited transportation, and restricted services create high-stress environments, increasing risks of child maltreatment, substance abuse, and firearm-related suicides. Parents struggling to meet basic needs face chronic stress, emotional withdrawal, and punitive discipline, reinforcing cycles of trauma and neglect.

SCC serves marginalized families, ensuring those facing systemic barriers receive the education and support needed to build healthy, stable homes:

- **Children in Poverty:** 20.8% of children in Shelby County experience food insecurity, housing instability, and financial hardship (Missouri Kids Count, 2024), increasing parental frustration, harsh discipline, and emotional neglect.
- **Caregivers Recovering from Substance Abuse:** Addiction destabilizes families, increasing child welfare risks and suicide vulnerability.
- **Rural Families with Limited Access to Services:** Many travel 30-60 minutes for mental health or parenting education, making consistent support inaccessible.

When parents struggle to meet basic needs, chronic stress triggers reactive behaviors—yelling, punitive discipline, emotional detachment—increasing risks of Adverse Childhood Experiences and child welfare involvement. Parents in survival mode cannot model emotional regulation, leading to higher rates of depression, substance abuse, and family breakdown.

SCC addresses these challenges by providing:

- Free, evidence-based parenting education, eliminating financial barriers with cost-free childcare and incentives.
- Community-based programs, removing transportation burdens that limit access.
- Trauma-informed support, helping parents develop resilience, improve emotional regulation, and strengthen family bonds.

This program reshapes family legacies. Research (Gross et al., 2023) confirms that children raised in stable, nurturing homes develop healthy coping skills, complete their education, and build strong relationships. By equipping parents with conflict resolution, nonviolent discipline, and emotional regulation techniques, NPP reduces child maltreatment, prevents state intervention, and strengthens family resilience. By helping families move beyond survival mode, SCC ensures healthy parenting practices are passed down for generations, reducing long-term risks of child welfare involvement, economic instability, and suicide—creating change.

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Dollars from the United Way of the Mark Twain Area can ONLY be used to support programs in Marion, Monroe, Ralls, Lewis, and Shelby Counties in Missouri. If you serve additional counties, how can you prove dollars are only used to support the work of these counties?

Through collaborations with Missouri Children's Division, Shelby County School Districts, and the 41st Circuit Court, SCC will receive targeted referrals for families in Shelby County, ensuring United Way funds are used exclusively for residents in approved counties.

While the 41st Circuit includes Macon County, NPP services will be piloted in Shelby County, with all programmatic efforts focused on eligible United Way-funded areas.

To ensure compliance:

- United Way funds will be designated and tracked separately in SCC financial records.
- Participant ZIP codes and service location data will verify eligibility.
- Financial and programmatic reports will document fund allocation for transparency.

By implementing geographic tracking and funding oversight, SCC ensures United Way's investment benefits only designated counties, strengthening parenting education and family support services in Shelby County's pilot program.

What other revenue streams are utilized to support the program you are applying to the United Way to receive funding for?

At the time of this application, United Way funding will serve as the primary funding source for the NPP, ensuring the successful launch and initial implementation of this critical service in Shelby County.

SCC has a strong funding foundation from other sources that sustain other organizational programs and services. Funding from United Way will provide the essential resources needed to launch this program. Still, SCC is committed to securing additional funding through grants, donations, and fundraising to ensure its long-term success.

Explain the impact funding from United Way will have on the work of your organization if selected to receive funding from May 2024-April 2025.

SCC is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening families and preventing crises. While supported by a Missouri Foundation for Health grant for firearm suicide prevention, United Way funding would expand SCC's reach, allowing us to address the root causes of family instability through parenting education and early intervention. If awarded funding, SCC will launch and sustain the NPP, providing life-changing education to at-risk families, reducing child maltreatment, and building long-term community resilience.

United Way's Investment Will Allow SCC To:

- Provide trauma-informed parenting education, equipping caregivers with skills to prevent child welfare involvement.
- Enhance program delivery by training facilitators, acquiring curriculum materials, and implementing assessment tools to measure impact.
- Expand outreach through partnerships with schools, law enforcement, and community organizations to engage at-risk families and provide wraparound support.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Reduction in child removals and substantiated abuse cases in Shelby County.
- Healthier home environments, where children develop secure relationships and emotional stability.
- Generational impact, as parents break cycles of adversity and pass down positive parenting practices.

This program's impact will extend beyond participants, ensuring today's children become strong, resilient parents of tomorrow. United Way's support will create a ripple effect, strengthening family stability for generations.

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Explain any collaborations with other agencies.

SCC is developing key partnerships with Missouri Children's Division, Shelby County School Districts, and the 41st Circuit Court to ensure families in the NPP receive comprehensive, wraparound support.

- Missouri Children's Division will refer families involved in child welfare cases, ensuring those at risk of child removal or reunification challenges receive targeted parenting education. SCC will collaborate on case management to prevent out-of-home placements.
- Shelby County School Districts will serve as referral partners, connecting parents with children facing academic or behavioral challenges to parenting education and mental health resources. Schools will also act as community education hubs, increasing awareness of NPP.
- The 41st Circuit Court can integrate NPP as a court-approved intervention for parents in family court or child protection cases. SCC will collaborate with juvenile services to help parents meet court-mandated education requirements, supporting custody reunification and family preservation.

By strengthening collaboration among these agencies, SCC will increase access to early intervention services, reduce child welfare involvement, and enhance the local safety net for at-risk families.

For organizations that have been a United Way Community Impact Agency previously: How has your organization shown that your organization receives funding from United Way and partnered with the United Way organization?

N/A

If your organization previously has been a United Way Community Impact Agency, outside of receiving monthly financial support, how else has your organization benefited?

N/A

Organization Best Practices Questionnaire

Complete the following form answering questions relating to organization best practices. This information will not necessarily make an organization ineligible for status as a Community Impact Agency with United Way, but might result in the need for additional information for United Way.

PROGRAMS & MISSION:

Is your organization's mission statement able to be found prominently at your organization, on your organization's website, and on printed materials about your organization?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization ensure all programs of your organization align with the mission of the organization?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a strategic plan?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

BOARD:

Does your organization have a board of directors that meets at least once a year to oversee the affairs of the organization?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a board of directors made up of a diverse group of people (age, gender, education, background, ethnicity, etc.)?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a process to recruit new board members?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization provide training to new board members?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Need more information

Has your organization reviewed its bylaws in the last 12 months?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your board approve the annual budget?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your board review financial statements on at least a quarterly basis?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your board annually disclose conflicts of interest?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization maintain meeting minutes for all board meetings?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

How frequently does your board meet?

Monthly.....

Does your organization's bylaws include term limits for board members?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Need more information

Do all of your organization's board members give financially to the organization, or if they are unable to give financially, do they volunteer their time to the organization?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

EMPLOYER QUESTIONS:

If your organization has employees, do you have an employee handbook?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information
- ☐ N/A

If your organization has employees, are there up to date job descriptions for those employees?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information
- ☐ N/A

If your organization has an Executive Director, is that director evaluated on an annual basis by the board of directors?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information
- ☐ N/A

FINANCE & LEGALITY:

In the last year has there been any government agency led investigations of your organization?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Need more information

Is your organization registered with the Secretary of State's Office and is that registration up to date?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Did your organization file the IRS Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N in a timely manner (within ten and a half months of your last fiscal year end)?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Was a copy of the IRS Form 990 provided to the organization's board of directors before it was filed?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Has your organization reviewed its policies and procedures in the last 12 months?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a financial policy in place to oversee the paying of invoices?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a policy in place to reimburse employees or volunteers for expenses?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a policy in place for receiving cash and making deposits?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

How much does your organization have in operating reserves per your most recent financial statement?

SCC doesn't currently maintain a formal operating reserve. MFH supports operational expenses.

How many months does that operating reserves equate to in regards to average monthly expenses?

Funding structure allows core operations to be sustained.

Any details you want to share about your organization's operating reserves?

Shelby County Cares operates primarily through grant funding from MFH, which provides indirect cost recovery. While we do not have unrestricted reserves, our financial model ensures continued service delivery. We are actively exploring ways to establish an operating reserve to enhance long-term sustainability. I can provide spreadsheets that reflect how much money we currently have in each approved category. We have to submit financial statements to MFH bi-annually, before receiving funding.

File Uploads

Following are the required documents - United Way must receive ALL required documents by Saturday, February 15th in order to be eligible to become a Community Impact Agency.

NUMBER SERVED: Please submit your numbers served using THIS link: <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/RC7zyd5qz6>

Number of Individuals Served - USE THIS LINK: <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/RC7zyd5qz6>

 Add file

Organization Budget - Form found on Website or can use own format - Upload as Spreadsheet

 Add file

Program/Project Budget (if applying for program/project dollars) - Form found on Website - Upload as Spreadsheet

 Add file

Most Recent IRS 990

 Add file

Federal IRS Determination Letter - Not required for returning applicants

 Add file

For budgets over \$300,000 please upload your most recently completed audit.

 Add file

For budgets of \$20,000-\$300,000 please upload a Compilation Report prepared by a CPA (or bring a copy to the United Way Office if no full audit).

 Add file

For budgets under \$20,000, please upload most recent approved financial statement.

 Add file

Board Member Listing - Form Found on Website - Upload as Spreadsheet

 Add file

Key Employee Listing - Form Found on Website - Upload as Spreadsheet

 Add file

Organization's most recent Annual Report (if applicable)

 Add file

Upload Agency's Bylaws - Required for new applicants, required for returning applicants if any changes have been made in past year.

 Add file

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