



2012 UNITED WAY OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

United Way of Illinois' public policy agenda reflects the work of United Ways across the state in the areas of education, income and health. Additionally, United Way advocates for sound policies affecting the non-profit sector's capacity to advance the common good. United Way of Illinois has established engagement strategies within each of the following four areas:

EDUCATION: LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

The preschool years are a critical time for children. Early-learning opportunities lay the foundation for success in college, work and life. Quality and affordable early childhood education ultimately will help reduce high school dropout rates.

To ensure children receive a quality education and stay in school through graduation, United Way will:

- Advocate to make high-quality, affordable, early-learning opportunities available to all children
- Promote partnerships that support family engagement and community-based involvement to improve student academic achievement
- Support comprehensive and consistent assessment and measurement standards from Pre-K through high school graduation

INCOME: BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES THROUGH FINANCIAL STABILITY

Financial stability has taken on greater importance for many Illinoisans as our economy struggles to rebound. Households that are financially stable and have sufficient income to support their families create a stronger community and economy.

To ensure families and individuals have the resources they need to achieve financial stability, United Way will:

- Improve access to income supports by encouraging the streamlining of local and state processes for critical public benefits
- Increase the impact of financial literacy education by advocating for the incorporation of quality standards and savings opportunities

HEALTH: IMPROVING PEOPLE'S HEALTH

Access to healthcare is the key to ensuring Illinoisans can lead healthy lives. Receiving healthcare early in life and throughout adulthood is an important way to prevent obesity and chronic diseases that are becoming more prevalent today.

To ensure families and individuals are able to live healthy lives, United Way will:

- Support access to healthcare by connecting people to affordable, comprehensive health services
- Combat preventable chronic disease through the promotion of strategies that support wellness and healthy lifestyles

HUMAN SERVICE SECTOR STRENGTHENING: PROTECTING NON-PROFITS THAT PROMOTE THE COMMON GOOD

Much like roads, hospitals and schools, community services are part of our state's vital public infrastructure that must be maintained and strengthened. In order to continue advancing the common good, we must make sure the state has a well-managed network of community services.

To ensure Illinois has the essential services that protect public health and safety, revitalize local economies and enhance learning, United Way will:

- Advocate for a state budget that preserves the current level of investment in Illinois' health and human services
- Promote fair, efficient and transparent contracting practices between service providers and government funders
- Support efforts to reduce unnecessary state administrative burdens on human service providers and their programs
- Enhance community resources that ensure a seamless infrastructure of health and human service to support those in need

LOCAL UNITED WAYS SUPPORTING United Way of Illinois

Barrington Area United Way

Batavia United Way

Bureau County United Way

Colona-Green Rock-Orion United Way

Fox Valley United Way

Genoa-Kingston United Way

Heart of Illinois United Way

Kewanee Area United Way

Kishwaukee United Way

Lake Area United Way

McDonough County United Way

North Shore United Way

Northwest Suburban United Way

Prairieland United Way

South-Southwest Suburban United Way

Streator Area United Way

United Way of Adams County

United Way of Boone County

United Way of Brown County

United Way of Central Illinois

United Way of Central Kane County

United Way of Champaign County

United Way of Christian County

United Way of Coles County

United Way of Danville Area

United Way of Decatur and Mid Illinois

United Way of DuPage/West Cook

United Way of Eastern LaSalle County

United Way of Edgar County

United Way of Effingham County

United Way of Elgin

United Way of Greater Beardstown

United Way of Greater McHenry County

United Way of Greater St. Louis

United Way of Grundy County

United Way of Illinois Valley

United Way of Kankakee County

United Way of Knox County

United Way of Lake County

United Way of Lee County

United Way of Logan County

United Way of McLean County

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

United Way of Pekin

United Way of Pontiac

United Way of Quad Cities Area

United Way of Rock River Valley

United Way of South Central Illinois

United Way of Southern Illinois

United Way of Spoon River Country

United Way of Whiteside County

United Way of Will County

Warren County United Way

If you have questions or would like more information,
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