



2010 UNITED WAY OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY.

*W*As the largest non-governmental funder of human services in Illinois, United Way of Illinois and its 57 member organizations are dedicated to ensuring Illinois families have access to the health, income and education programs they need to thrive. We all win when children succeed in school, when families and individuals are financially stable and everyone has access to adequate health care services. A strong, stable nonprofit infrastructure is critical if we are to maintain a safety net of services in our communities.

We all have a shared interest and responsibility to promote the common good by ensuring our public infrastructure includes a strong, well-managed network of nonprofit community services that complement traditional government institutions. In order for communities and families throughout Illinois to succeed and prosper, we must repair and strengthen the essential services that protect public health, improve public safety, revitalize local economies and enhance learning.

We must focus our attention on proven programs that provide economic stimulus, teach positive behavior and reinforce the safety net of services needed most. By ensuring programs are being funded wisely and with the greatest possible return on investment we can elevate Illinoisans and begin the process of economic recovery.

United Way of Illinois recognizes the critical role state government plays in creating systemic change that can improve people's lives. United Way engages in public policy advocacy because we recognize it is our civic obligation to use our experience and knowledge to help inform decision-makers regarding policy and funding of critical human service programs.

Like most states, Illinois must meet the needs of its residents while closing a significant budget gap and adjusting to a rapidly changing economic landscape.

In 2010 United Way of Illinois will advocate for sound policies affecting the human service sector's capacity to advance the common good:

1. **Wise, strategic investments**

Advocate for the adoption of a state budget that preserves the current level of investment in Illinois' health and human services system and protects funding of critical programs and services that support individuals and families in our communities.

2. **Responsible management**

Support policies and procedures that prioritize social service provider reimbursements and ensure prompt payment on an ongoing basis. Government should bear the financial responsibility of compensating providers in a timely manner and for mid-term contract changes.

3. **Greater efficiency and accountability**

Promote fair, efficient and transparent contracting practices between service providers and government funders. United Way of Illinois endorses the recommendations for government contracting with nonprofit providers as put forth in the "Partnership Principles for a Sustainable Human Services System." *

4. **Increased access to health & human services**

Build on the public-private partnership which state government established through enactment of the 2-1-1 Service Act so that an increasing number of Illinois residents have access to this easy-to-remember, toll-free 24-hour information line that connects people in need with health and human services and people who wish to volunteer with opportunities.

Join United Way in advancing the common good by advocating for issues important to you and your community!

Local United Ways Supporting United Way of Illinois

Barrington Area United Way	United Way of Effingham County
Batavia United Way	United Way of Elgin
Bureau County United Way	United Way of Greater Beardstown
Colona-Green Rock-Orion United Way	United Way of Greater McHenry County
Fox Valley United Way	United Way of Greater St. Louis
Genoa-Kingston United Way	United Way of Grundy County
Heart of Illinois United Way	United Way of Illinois Valley
Kewanee Area United Way	United Way of Kankakee County
Kishwaukee United Way	United Way of Knox County
Lake Area United Way	United Way of Lake County
McDonough County United Way	United Way of Lee County
Moultrie County United Way	United Way of Logan County
North Suburban United Way	United Way of McLean County
Northwest Suburban United Way	United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Prairieland United Way	United Way of Oak Park, River Forest
South-Southwest Suburban United Way	United Way of Pekin
Streator Area United Way	United Way of Pontiac
United Way of Adams County	United Way of Quad Cities Area
United Way of Boone County	United Way of Rock River Valley
United Way of Brown County	United Way of South Central Illinois
United Way of Central Illinois	United Way of Southern Illinois
United Way of Central Kane County	United Way of Spoon River County
United Way of Champaign County	United Way of the DuPage Area
United Way of Christian County	United Way of the North Shore
United Way of Coles County	United Way of Whiteside County
United Way of Danville Area	United Way of Will County
United Way of Decatur and Mid Illinois	Warren County United Way
United Way of Eastern LaSalle County	West Suburban United Way
United Way of Edgar County	

* <http://www.unitedwayillinois.org/documents/DonorsForumPartnershipPrinciples>