

National Policy Update

United Way of Illinois Annual Meeting

LIVE UNITED

Megan Tracz, Public Policy Manager, United Way Worldwide
August 2, 2012



UWW Public Policy Team



Patty Hall; Lindsay Torrico; Deborah Price; Patrick McIntyre; Steve Taylor; Megan Tracz

Role of the United Way Worldwide Policy Team



Move key policy priorities forward by:

- Direct lobbying of Congress and the Administration
- Educating state and local United Ways about strategies for direct and grassroots advocacy
- Supporting state and local United Ways' public policy capacity building work
- Building partnerships and coalitions with national allies

Today's Agenda

Federal Landscape – Fiscal Cliff and End of Year Challenges

Legislative Update on Key Programs

Policy Agenda Discussion

Fiscal Cliff - Convergence of Issues at the End of 2012

- “Sequestration” – automatic across the board 7%-9% cuts in domestic and military spending
- Expiration of “Bush tax cuts,” which apply to most taxpayers
- Expiration of Payroll tax cut
- Reach Debt Ceiling (again)
- Unfinished FY 2013 Appropriations Bills
- 70 already-expired tax provisions



Getty Images

Sequestration – What does it mean to us?

- On January 2, 2013, there will be across the board cuts to defense and non-defense programs.
- Each year between 2013 – 2021, the government must cut \$109.3B

In 2013, the following programs will receive a 8.4% cut:

- Education
- Head Start
- Child Care Development Block Grant
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
- Many Affordable Housing Programs
- Workforce Development - Job Training

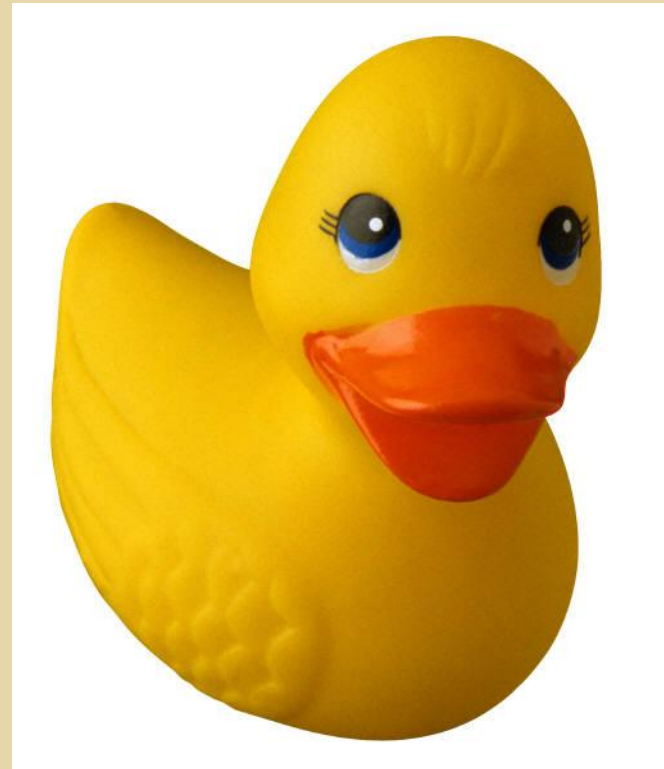
Scenarios in Lame Duck

1. Do nothing

- a) Recession if no action in early 2013, OR
- b) New Congress & President craft package in early 2013

2. Punt – Temporary measure; comprehensive package with new Congress

3. Massive, expensive, comprehensive package



Revenue for a “Deal”

Charitable Giving Incentives on the Table

- Enormous political pressure to “pay-for” some of cost.
- Everything on the table, including charitable deduction.
- Cuts to deduction will appear in “deal” crafted behind closed doors

- **Comprehensive tax reform may still follow in 2013-2014.**

How You Can Help

- Add your United Way to sequestration letter
- Visit with your Members of Congress during August Recess (August 6 – September 7); or Fridays in the District
- Secure Senator Durbin's support on the Charitable Deduction
- Charitable Deduction Forum & Hill Day: December 5 & 6

Questions?

Legislative Update

Not likely moving this year:

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- Workforce Investment Act
- VITA Act

Maybe moving: Farm Bill (SNAP)



At risk in appropriations battle: AmeriCorps



Opportunity in appropriations: EFSP



Expiring at the end of the year: Temporary EITC expansions

Setting the Policy Agenda

LIVE UNITED

**United
Way**



Setting the Policy Agenda for the 113th Congress

- Overview of Process in 2012
- Priorities:
 - Narrow the agenda to focus on the key issues
 - Align and augment core community impact strategies

Ten-Year Goals and Community Impact Priority Areas

Education: Cut drop out rate

- Focus: Early Grade Reading Proficiency (incl. school readiness)
- Focus: Middle Grade Success & High School Graduation

Income: Increase financial stability

- Focus: Family Sustaining Employment

Health: Increase those healthy and avoiding risky behavior

- Focus: Access to Health Care
- Focus: Healthy Eating & Physical Activity

What do you think?

Big Picture: What are the top 3-5 policy priorities the United Way system must be active on to advance our 10-year goals and support the work of United Way?

What do you think?

Open Forum:

- *How can our network of United Ways be most effective in advancing these priorities?*
- *Other comments*

Thank you

LIVE UNITED

**United
Way**

