



2013 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

Community 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 Will County
Warren County United Way

If you have questions or would like more information,
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