

Background

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in each community. United Way has the expertise and relationships to develop meaningful and lasting cross-sector solutions to community challenges. Through the generosity of donors, United Ways are able to reduce burdens on public sector programs, and to serve people who do not qualify for public benefits but do not earn enough to meet their family's basic needs.

The United Way of Pennsylvania, a nonprofit and nonpartisan membership organization representing 46 local United Ways and 4 United Funds in Pennsylvania, is supporting the following public policy priorities to advance the common good during the Pennsylvania General Assembly's 2019-2020 legislative session.



State Budgeting to Strengthen Communities

United Way of Pennsylvania will advocate for funding levels which support our work to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in each community in our state. We urge the General Assembly and the Governor to recognize that funding levels for many services have not kept pace with increases in demands, nor increases in costs of providing services.

For more information about any of these priorities, contact:

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2019-2020 PRIORITIES FOR THE COMMON GOOD



United Way
of Pennsylvania
www.uwp.org



PA 2-1-1

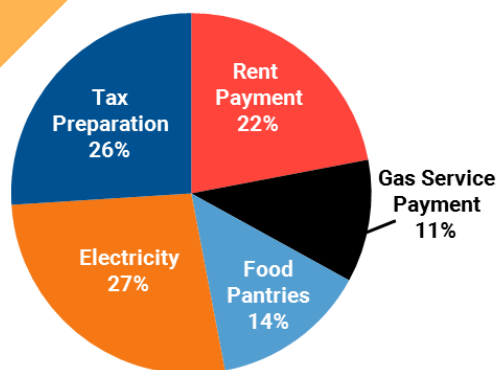
Imagine a service that can provide policymakers with data that identifies the most pressing unmet health and human services needs in communities. This service is a one-stop connection for any Pennsylvanian to get help with a health or human service need.



UWP Supports

- Investment of state funds to continue a public-private partnership, strengthen 2-1-1 and assure a consistent experience for every user in the state.
- Explore ways to increase the efficiency of state and local governments by contracting to provide services currently offered through government-operated information phone hotlines.
- Providing data for health and human service planning at the state and local level.
- Working closely with state agencies including the Department of Aging, Health, Human Services, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to define shared goals to save taxpayer dollars by connection Pennsylvanians in need to the right services at the right time.

TOP HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS IN PA FOR 2017 BASED ON 2-1-1 CONTACTS*



*Percentages rounded and based on number of calls in top five needs only

Early Childhood Education

United Way's network goals include increasing school readiness and assuring that children read at grade level by third grade, successful completion of middle school and increasing high school graduation rates.



UWP Supports

- Assuring all children have access to consistent, high quality and affordable early learning. United Way supports increased funding for pre-kindergarten and Head Start programs with investments to at-risk kids.
- Assuring all children have access to reliable, high quality and affordable child care. United Way of Pennsylvania supports increased funding for Child Care Services to continue to provide support to children on the child care subsidy waitlist.
- Ensuring workforce development initiatives include opportunities to further their training and career.
- Increased state and federal funding for the child care development block grant to support the healthy development and school readiness needs of children, including a focus on increasing quality.
- Creating a forum for out of school time program funders, providers, school, and policy makers to identify stable sources of funding, consider quality program standards, and foster partnerships to support out of school time activities.
- Incentives for aligning out of school activities with PA's projected work force needs in order to prepare PA's kids for high-demand family sustaining job.

Income Stability and Family Self-Sufficiency

United Way's goals are to increase family-sustaining employment, assure access to income supports for those who need it, address challenges to the affordability of housing and help families grow savings and assets.



UWP Supports

- State and federal Earned Income Tax Credits to support working families and reduce poverty.
- Improving PA's affordable housing options in rural and urban areas for median and low-income individuals and families, along with veterans, seniors and the disabled.
- Job training and career development policies which align to address impending work force shortages.
- Workforce development initiatives that help more of PA's population achieve jobs that provide family-sustaining wages and lift them to a level of financial sustainability.
- Expanding access to vital and affordable health care programs including Medicaid and CHIP which provide all essential health benefits including behavioral health services.
- Maintaining PA's strong laws, which prohibit predatory lenders from taking advantage of individuals with limited to no income.

