

United Way of Pennsylvania Members

Advocacy Language

United Way of [Insert Town] proudly partners with United Way of Pennsylvania (UWP) to advocate for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. UWP monitors and engages our local and federal congressional delegates in public policy priorities that are of importance to our United Way and our community. Some of those policy priorities include early childhood education and afterschool programs, securing state support for PA 2-1-1, which connects Pennsylvanians to health and human services information, and matters related to financial stability, such as expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit. The more recent successes seen by our United Way advocacy across the state include (1) Increasing access to high quality education for thousands of Pennsylvania's 3 and 4-year olds, (2) Strengthening our PA 2-1-1 system statewide by leveraging public and private investments to ensure every Pennsylvanian will have access to the service, both through phone and text, by the end of 2018, and (3) Protecting and expanding the pro-work, anti-poverty Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit improvements which affect 750,000 children in over 380,000 Pennsylvania families. This protection kept 179,000 children, and 398,000 Pennsylvanians overall, from falling deeper into poverty. The average Pennsylvanian who claims the EITC gets to keep more than \$2,200 of their earnings to help support themselves and their families.

As a state network, we will continue to advocate for further improvements to policies that are vital to our United Way and communities. Some of those policy priorities include:

- Making sure all Pennsylvania three and four-year olds have access to high quality early childhood education;*
- Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for young workers age 21 to 25, as well as non-custodial parents to benefit 554,000 more Pennsylvanians; and*
- Building a stronger partnership with state government through PA 2-1-1 to make it easy for those who need help to learn about all public and private resources available to them.*

In addition to advocating on behalf of our United Way, our partnership with UWP allows for cross-sector collaborations between various coalitions and community partners who are committed to bringing lasting change to the problems our communities, our state, and our nation are currently facing. UWP builds relationships, engages, teaches, and strengthens our message to fight for every person in every community. With our advocacy efforts, we can LIVE UNITED! For more information, please visit UWP's website at www.uwp.org/advocate.