



UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL INDIANA PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA 2019

UNITED WE FIGHT.
UNITED WE WIN.

United Way
of Central Indiana





Dear Friends,

Poverty is a plague in Central Indiana. Right now, more than 230,000 families are living in poverty or are struggling every month to pay for safe housing, quality child care, reliable transportation and necessary healthcare expenses. Research says it is unlikely that the many children living in these families today will do much better as adults. The time is now to stop this cycle of generational poverty by doubling down on our impact, our philanthropy, our community engagement and our public policy work so that every person has the opportunity to not only survive – but thrive.

In our Public Policy Agenda for 2019, you'll find United Way of Central Indiana's legislative priorities defined by how we lead, collaborate or support a variety of issues. More importantly, United Way's policy issues are guided by the Two Generation Approach – the foundation for United Way's new strategic vision and the promising practice that helps children get off to a good start, supports parents on their path to better jobs and higher wages and improves the whole family's health, stability and well-being.

Raise your voice for United Way's Public Policy Agenda and join us as we all fight for the education, financial stability, health and basic needs of every person in our community.

Sincerely,

Ann D. Murtlow
President & CEO
United Way of Central Indiana



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Network
Board Chair
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Vice President
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LEADING THE WAY



On My Way Pre-K

To sustain the significant progress that has been made to support early childhood education across Indiana through the On My Way Pre-K program, the Indiana General Assembly should adopt family-centered legislation that:

- Continues measured and manageable increases in Indiana's strategic investment in the On My Way Pre-K program, while protecting funding and service levels in the existing 20 counties;
- Streamlines the intake and eligibility process for families applying to the On My Way Pre-K program;
- Creates a carve-out in the appropriations for families who cannot meet the CCDF service requirements; and
- Continues the longitudinal study to enhance understanding of the two-generational outcomes of the On My Way Pre-K program.



LEADING THE WAY

Moving Indiana Forward with Hate Crimes Legislation

United Way believes our community is best served when diversity and inclusion are embedded in everything we do. As one of only five states without a clear and specific hate crimes law, Indiana projects an impression unwelcoming of diversity that is driving businesses and talented workers away from the Hoosier state.

To push the needle on this issue, United Way of Central Indiana and a broad and bipartisan group of employers, business leaders, universities, civic organizations and nonprofits have formed the **Indiana Forward** campaign, calling for the Indiana General Assembly to pass a clear, specific and comprehensive hate crimes law that provides the clarity necessary for judges to maximize or enhance criminal sentences when the crime was motivated by bias toward a victim's characteristics that include: race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation.



COLLABORATING WITH OUR PARTNERS

Tobacco Cessation

Indiana should take steps to reduce the rates of tobacco use.

- The cigarette tax should be increased, with a portion of the increase dedicated to public health and increased access to care. More resources should also be made available for tobacco cessation and prevention.
- Support efforts to raise the age for the purchase of tobacco from 18 to 21 years and repeal the local preemption language.

Workforce Solutions

Indiana should support educational bridge programs – adult basic education and occupational skills training – that result in a credential leading to employment for low-skills adults, especially for those in re-entry following incarceration.

SUPPORTING ACTIVE COALITIONS

Indiana's Schools

Indiana's schools should be provided with resources that allow them to:

- All schools – Create safe and supportive environments where students not only learn academically, but also socially, behaviorally and emotionally;
- High schools – Focus on programs that encourage on-time graduation, graduation coaching and career pathways; and
- Elementary schools – Focus efforts on evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs that remove students' barriers to learning and set them on a path for success.

Child Welfare

United Way is supporting efforts to improve the internal climate and service provision of the Indiana Department of Child Services through workforce development and retention, effective policies for investigating and managing cases and services to children both in foster care and those aging out of the foster care system.

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