

UNITED WE THRIVE

2024 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA



United Way of Greater Cincinnati unites our community. We **take action**, **advocate** and **invest** to accelerate positive change in Greater Cincinnati. Working with donors, grantees, civic leaders and policymakers, we focus on ensuring everyone in our community has opportunities to become financially stable, live in an affordable home and receive a quality education.

Our policy priorities include:

EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

We fight to improve the odds so tomorrow's leaders can build a better foundation today. We know education is not limited to the four walls of a classroom. We work to ensure children get a strong start in life, teenagers have the tools necessary to learn and grow, and young adults are positioned to thrive in the job market.

- Support high-quality, affordable child care and preschool systems with mixed delivery options.
- Build a sustainable infrastructure for youth behavioral health treatment.
- Attract, prepare, support and retain qualified, diverse early childhood and K-12 educators.
- Make education after high school more affordable by increasing federal and state need-based aid and state funding for public two- and four-year colleges and universities.
- Provide universal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion support for high school seniors and their families.



FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

We want to put every person, in every community, on a path toward financial empowerment. That starts with access to services, job training, credit counseling and money management programs. When families are stable, our communities are stronger, and everyone wins.

- Bolster the sustainability and capacity of United Way's 211 Helpline, which connects community members to essential resources, with local and state support.
- Champion local, state and federal policies that promote digital equity and support local digital inclusion strategies.
- Make improvements to and increase utilization of local, state and federal tax credits for working families.
- Reduce administrative burdens at the local, state and national levels for families accessing safety net funding.
- Help families climb the economic ladder by addressing benefit cliffs.
- Expand access to family support and care coordination initiatives that help families secure sustainable income and achieve financial stability.
- Partner to provide equitable access to nutritious food for all.
- Promote economic mobility through skill-based hiring practices.



HOUSING SECURITY

We help build stable financial foundations for families in low-income communities by addressing the quality and affordability of housing. We rely on locally informed, regional collaborations. We believe that asset building provides greater opportunities for families to sustain intergenerational economic well-being.

- Partner to ensure all families have healthy housing options near where they work, learn, play and pray, at a price their income allows them to afford.
- Work with market actors and public policymakers to identify and implement policies and procedures that prevent evictions and reduce claim cost.



CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We work to increase the capacity of communities to create lasting change. We equip individuals and organizations to make their voices heard, gain a role in policy decisions and impact institutions that influence their futures and those of their families.

- Champion tax incentives for charitable deductions by individuals, foundations and businesses.
- Support voter registration and participation.
- Educate voters on issues on a nonpartisan basis.
- Enhance electoral integrity by safeguarding election infrastructure and technology.



HOW UWGC ADVOCATES

To advance policy issues in each of our priority impact areas, we steward our resources by employing a combination of the following engagement strategies:

- Assume a leadership role in advocacy by representing UWGC before local, state and federal policymakers to proactively advocate for, and bring visibility to, UWGC priority issues
- Proactively engage our constituents and our community partners to advocate with their elected and appointed policymakers, including providing consultation, training, messaging and technical assistance
- Collaborate with or lead advocacy partnerships and coalitions of nonprofits and advocacy organizations on UWGC's policy priorities

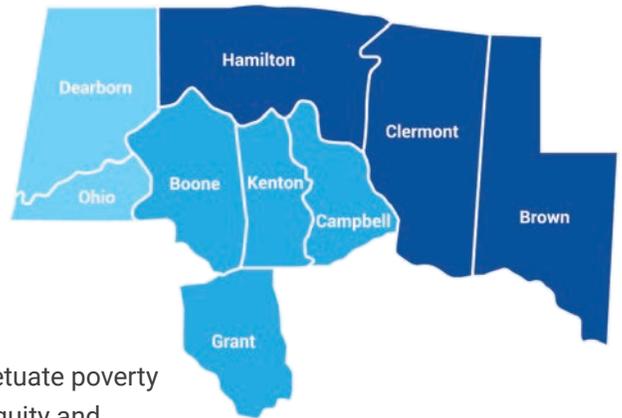
For example, UWGC belongs to United Way Worldwide and state United Way associations in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. Through these affiliations, we collaborate with other United Way affiliates to define, advance and achieve shared policy priorities.

In addition, we look to LISC's Housing our Future, All-In Cincinnati's Equity Is the Path to Inclusive Prosperity, Pritchard Committee's Big Bold Ask framework and Groundwork Ohio's policy agenda to advance our priority impact areas.

Finally, we may partner with our grantees when their work involves public policy advocacy.

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF GREATER CINCINNATI

Founded in 1915, United Way of Greater Cincinnati is one of the region's largest nonprofit organizations. We work to move our community forward in areas critical to our community's success, including improving early childhood education, financial stability and housing. We cannot do this work alone. We are leading a movement to address the root causes of issues, rebuild systems and create solutions so everyone in our community has access to opportunity.



United Way collaborates with others to change systems that perpetuate poverty and injustice – especially for people of color. We aim to achieve equity and ensure fair and equitable access to opportunities for everyone in our region.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, UWGC will remain nonpartisan and is prohibited by the Internal Revenue Code from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office.

UWGC PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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Join us at UWGC.org



United Way
of Greater Cincinnati