

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2019



P Policy **\$** Fiscal Ask **\$=** Maintain Funds **REV↑** Revenue Increase **REV↓** Revenue Decrease

EDUCATION

Increase the percentage of central Iowa students who graduate from high school to 95% by 2020.

United Way of Central Iowa supports policies to help children build critical reading skills and help youth connect with education and support for lifelong success.

- P** Support the reauthorization of the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) school infrastructure sales tax.
- P** Increase opportunities for career pathway exploration in the PK-12 system by providing more valuable career-assessment experiences and work-based learning options to help students better prepare to make education, training, and career choices.

INCOME

Increase the percentage of central Iowans who are financially self-sufficient to 75% by 2020.

United Way of Central Iowa advocates for policies that enable Iowans to upskill and sustain employment to increase income.

Support the recommendations of the Iowa Skills2Compete Coalition including:

- \$=** Maintain current investments in adult basic education, PACE programs, pathway navigators, industry-sector partnerships, and GAP tuition assistance at \$12.5 million.
- \$** Lead efforts to eliminate the child care "cliff effect" and increase access to quality and affordable child care by expanding the income eligibility level of the Child Care Assistance (CCA) program from 145 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty level using a tiered co-pay schedule. Advocate for stabilizing the child care provider market through CCA program improvements and reimbursement rates.
- \$** Support the Future Ready Iowa initiative to help grow Iowa's workforce through new investments that build on the solid foundation of programs and funding currently in place.
- P** Support efforts to increase awareness of affordable workforce housing.
- P** Initiate a public-private partnership to increase opportunities for the direct care workforce to transfer credentials and training, support higher wages, and build the talent pipeline.
- P** Identify and support public and private transportation solutions.
- REV↑** Promote the recommendations of the SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) work group to increase engagement with the federal SNAP E&T.

HEALTH

Increase central Iowa's Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index score to 64.5 by 2020.

United Way of Central Iowa advocates for a comprehensive, holistic approach to health and well-being, focused on prevention and addressing root causes of poor health outcomes.

- \$** Ensure access to quality mental and health care services for all central Iowans with a focus on vulnerable populations served by Medicaid.

Support the recommendations of the Well Kids of Central Iowa Coalition:

- \$=** Promote healthy habits through 5-2-1-0 messaging and technical assistance resourced by childhood obesity funding at the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- P** Support data tracking to improve the physical education of Iowa students.

Support the recommendations of the ACEs 360 Coalition (Adverse Childhood Experiences)

ESSENTIAL NEEDS

United Way of Central Iowa works to secure the basic needs of all Iowans to impact our community goals.

- REV↓** Support a sales tax exemption for food banks and pantries serving low-income Iowans.
- \$** Advocate for implementing the Benefit Bank to help stabilize families and ensure that Iowa receives the maximum federal funding available to support financial stability and workforce development.
- P** Increase awareness of 2-1-1 and the services provided to Iowans.