2027 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

for Texas United Ways

UNITED WAY
United Ways of Texas



Texas United Ways mobilize communities to action so every Texan has the opportunity to thrive. Grounded in local relationships and data, we advance policies that strengthen families, expand opportunity, and build resilient communities–recognizing the realities ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households face in making ends meet.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

Everyone deserves the opportunity to meet basic needs, build financial security, and achieve economic mobility.

- **Protect access** to food, utilities, emergency assistance, and public benefit programs, including SNAP, while addressing benefits cliffs that can penalize families for increasing earnings and advancing toward self-sufficiency.
- **Expand access** to affordable, high-quality child care options that accommodate diverse workforce needs, enabling parents to work and pursue education and training.
- **Address housing affordability and stability** to help Texans maintain safe, stable housing, remain employed, and strengthen household financial security.
- **Address transportation barriers and costs** that limit access to employment, education and training, child care, health care, and other essential services.
- **Strengthen access to in-demand skills training**, career advancement, and quality jobs that provide family-sustaining wages, sufficient work hours, and opportunities for long-term economic mobility, while encouraging employer practices that support workers' financial stability.
- **Expand access to financial education,** coaching, and tools that help individuals and families build financial stability and promote fair lending practices and protections against predatory financial products, scams, and fraud.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Every Texan deserves access to quality, affordable health care and the resources and support needed to thrive.

- **Strengthen access** to mental health and substance use prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery supports, including community-based behavioral health services.
- **Protect and strengthen investments** in prevention, early intervention, and family support services that promote child safety, healthy family relationships, and family well-being.
- **Improve access** to quality maternal and child health care, preventive services, and supports that promote healthy outcomes for mothers, children, and families.
- **Expand access** to high-quality, affordable health care services and insurance coverage, and reduce barriers to obtaining and maintaining coverage and care.
- **Advance strategies** that address non-medical drivers of health, including access to stable housing, reliable transportation, affordable nutritious food, and financial stability.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Every child and young adult deserves the opportunity to learn, thrive, and reach their full potential.

- **Expand access to and increase investments** in affordable, quality child care and early learning opportunities that support school readiness and family stability.
- **Improve access** to mental health, social-emotional learning, substance-use prevention, and other supports that help students thrive.
- **Advance early literacy and numeracy**, reading proficiency, foundational math skills, and interventions that help students build essential academic skills.
- **Strengthen the quality of public education** through adequate and sustainable investment in schools, support for teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention, and access to the resources and opportunities all Texas students need to succeed.
- **Increase access** to after-school programs, summer learning, enrichment, and other supports that help students learn and families succeed.
- **Support youth and young adults** in accessing college, workforce training, industry credentials, career exploration, and pathways to family-sustaining employment.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

Every community deserves the resources, partnerships, and support systems needed to prepare for challenges, respond to crises, and recover and thrive.

- **Protect adequate and sustainable state funding** for essential services and programs across health, education, financial security, and community resiliency.
- **Strengthen the nonprofit sector** by protecting its ability to deliver essential services, building cross-sector partnerships, coordinating services, and reducing barriers to collaboration and contracting with government.
- **Invest in 211 and strengthen information and referral systems** to improve coordination among service providers and reduce barriers, helping Texans across communities connect to and access essential services, resources, and supports.
- **Promote charitable giving** and expand volunteer recruitment, engagement, retention, and training to support nonprofit organizations and meet community needs.
- **Monitor state policies, funding, and resources** related to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery to help communities access support when crises occur.

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Ashley R. Harris
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
ashley.harris@uwtexas.org