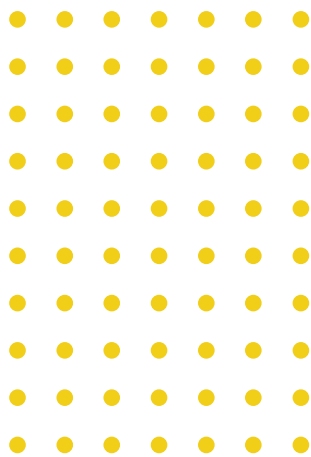


CLOSING

The 89th Regular Session brought new challenges and required Texas United Ways to play more defense than ever before. Still, thanks to the engagement and advocacy of local United Ways, their partners, and advocates across the state, we helped advance key priorities in educational opportunity, healthy community, financial security, and community resiliency. As we shift from session to implementation, United Ways of Texas will remain engaged to ensure that new policies are rolled out in ways that benefit our communities. We'll support our members in navigating changes, sharing input during rulemaking, and advocating at the local level.

Looking ahead, we will deepen our engagement on federal issues—including Congressional advocacy around SNAP, Medicaid, Skills Training, EITC/Child Tax Credit, 211, and Charitable Giving Incentives. Together, we will continue to raise community voices and advance meaningful, systems-level change for a stronger Texas.



TAKE ACTION

Turning Legislative Wins into Local Impact

The end of the Regular Session of the 89th Texas Legislature marks an important milestone for communities across our state—but it's just the beginning. With several legislative wins aligning with United Way's core priorities, including financial stability, early childhood education, and community resiliency, the real opportunity now lies ahead—turning those policy wins into real change at the local level.

Advocacy doesn't end when the Legislature gavel out. In fact, it's only the beginning. Now is the time to stay engaged—by supporting bill implementation, tracking interim hearings, and advancing local priorities that align with your mission. Whether you're a United Way team member, community partner, donor, or board member, you play a vital role in translating legislative outcomes into clear, local action. As a local United Way, you are a trusted messenger with deep connections to community members/voices, partners, and decision makers. You are uniquely positioned to interpret policy wins in ways that matter to your community, identify remaining gaps, and lead efforts to create lasting change. State policy may be shaped in Austin, but its power is felt on the ground—in your cities, counties, and neighborhoods.

We especially encourage United Ways across Texas to have strategic conversations with leadership about your long-term advocacy goals. Establishing clear guidelines, priorities, and expectations will empower staff, boards, and volunteers to engage consistently and effectively. Many of our peers are already leading with bold local and regional agendas—we invite more of you to do the same.

By building on this momentum, we can ensure that legislative progress truly reaches those who need it most—especially ALICE households—Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. These families are working, often full time, but still struggle to afford basic necessities like housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care.





TAKE ACTION

Ready to Take Action? Here's What You Can Do

Local action doesn't have to be big to be effective. Consider taking one or more of the following steps:

- Host a community briefing or town hall to highlight local needs and share recent policy outcomes.
- Submit an op-ed or letter to the editor to raise awareness about key issues impacting ALICE families and your community.
- Meet with elected officials or their staff in their district offices or at United Way events.
- Create and share local impact data and/or graphics using ALICE or 211 data to make your case.
- Training your board, staff, or affinity groups on advocacy basics

Looking to go deeper? These steps can help you expand and strengthen your year-round advocacy efforts

- Conduct a relationship-mapping exercise with your board, staff, or affinity groups to identify connections with policymakers.
- Engage your board, volunteers, and affinity groups like Women United, Tocqueville, or Young Leaders in setting local advocacy priorities.
- Form a Public Policy Task Force to guide your United Way's advocacy work throughout the year
- Engage local service groups in legislative awareness and action
- Participate in local budget processes or city/county proclamations to raise visibility for your issues.
- Invite elected officials to your board meetings or community events to build relationships and brief them on key priorities.
- Thank your lawmakers for their service and highlight your shared priorities.

Together, we can move from policy to progress—and from session wins to systems change—all year long.

211 Texas: A Critical Resource for Action & Insight

While priority legislation to modernize 211 (HB 38) did not pass this session, 211 Texas, continues to be one of the most valuable tools for understanding and responding to community needs in real time.

Every year, millions of Texans call looking for help with housing, food, child care, utilities, health care, and more. These calls don't just connect people to services—they produce real-time data that highlight the real challenges of Texas households and communities.

For United Ways, community partners, and advocates, 211 data is essential. It helps:

- Identify unmet needs and service gaps
- Demonstrate impact of public policies and funding on real families
- Strengthen messaging to funders, lawmakers, and community partners.

Use 211 data—alongside ALICE data— to strengthen your local advocacy, shape implementation conversations, and elevate your United Way's role as an expert, community connector, and problem solver.



ABOUT

United Ways of Texas:

As the voluntary state association for local United Ways in Texas, United Ways of Texas (UWT) creates lasting change in people's lives and in Texas communities by leading and collaborating with a trusted and powerful network of local member United Ways. Together, our network of Texas United Ways is working collaboratively towards a future where all Texans thrive.

uwtexas.org

ALICE:

Asset Limited, Income Constrained (ALICE) is a population of Texans that are employed and yet struggle to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, health care, childcare, technology, and transportation. The Texas ALICE Report provides county-by-county level data and analysis of how many households are unable to make ends meet. The report includes measures, based on present-day income levels and expenses that show how many Texas workers are struggling financially, and why.

unitedforalicetx.org

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