

Building

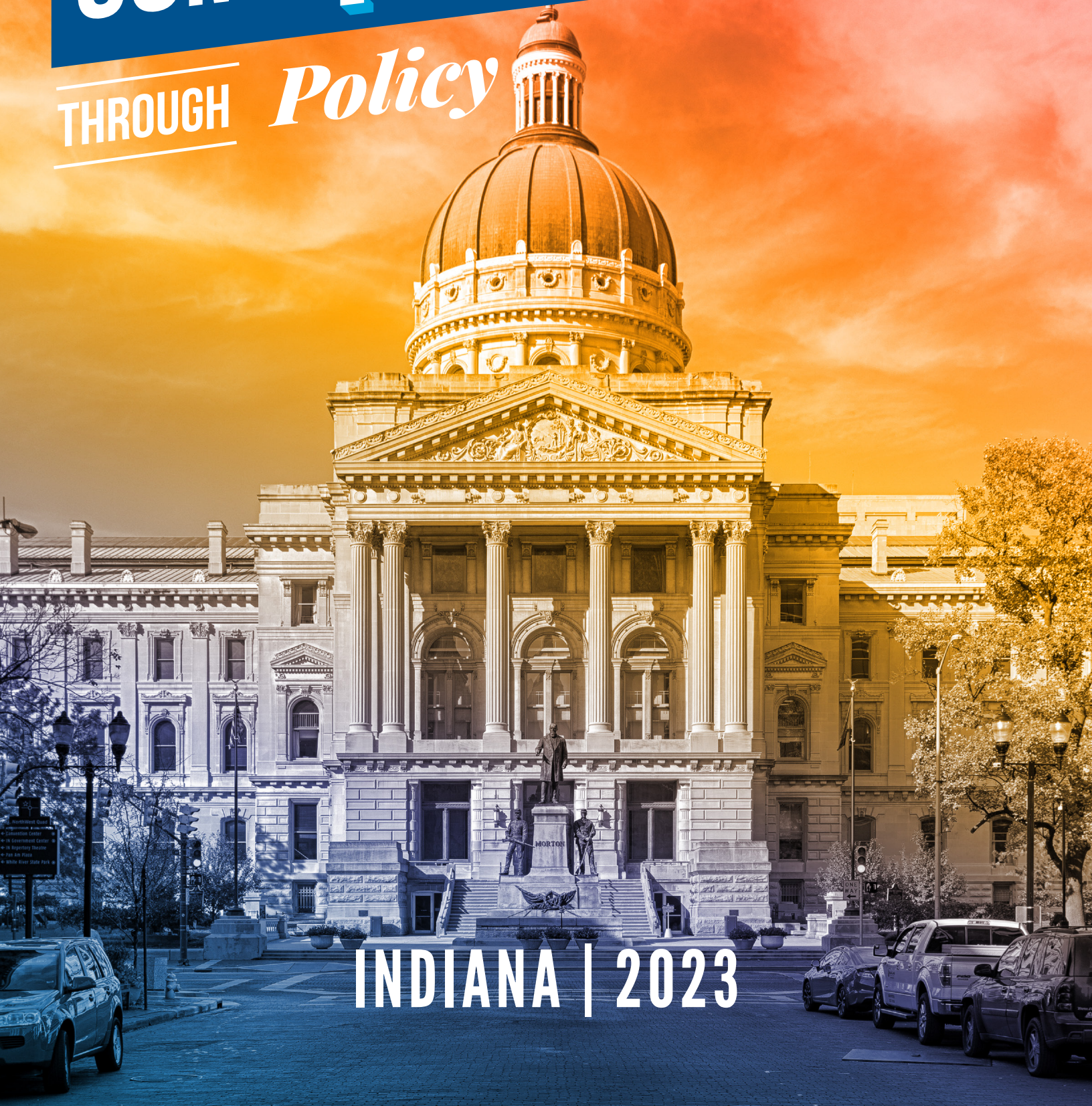
COMM[UNITY]

THROUGH *Policy*

United
Way



Metro United Way



INDIANA | 2023

METRO UNITED WAY’S PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

At Metro United Way, we know that what policy has built, programing alone cannot transform. Systemic change requires us to work at every level to provide equitable access to education, economic mobility, and health. That’s why we advocate at local, state, and federal levels for community-driven, evidenced-based policies that propel Indiana forward.

	OUR FOCUS Metro United Way is...	OUR WHY Metro United Way knows that...	OUR PRIORITY AREAS Metro United Way advocates to...	OUR PROGRAMS, RESEARCH, & INVESTMENTS Metro United Way...
EDUCATION	Creating equitable access to high-quality education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">19% of Indiana students enter 3rd grade below proficiency in reading. When children start behind, they tend to stay behind.Every dollar invested in early childhood yields a \$5 return in total benefits.77% of Indiana parents agree that after school programs provide access to caring adults and mentors, and 90% support public funding for after school programs.After school programs provide triple the return-on-investment by increasing youth earning potential, improving school performance, and reducing crime and juvenile justice involvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase the availability of affordable, high-quality early childhood education programs through public-private partnerships.Ensure all families have access to evidence-based home visiting and parent support programs.Enhance accessibility of high quality out-of-school-time programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Invested in high-quality early learning programs, including On My Way Pre-K.Guided the healthy development of 801 children through MUW's Ages and Stages Developmental Screener since 2021.Provided quality investment and training to 100+ youth development programs whose participants have higher school attendance and lower suspensions than their peers.
ECONOMIC MOBILITY	Creating pathways out of poverty to prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">200,000+ children in Indiana are food insecure.In our region, non-White children are 4.3 times more likely to grow up in low-opportunity neighborhoods.40% of individuals in our region are not in the labor force. This number could grow as more child care providers lose COVID-19 resources.Incarceration increases the likelihood that Hoosiers will experience poverty, yet Indiana has the 19th highest incarceration rate in the nation.Black Hoosiers are 10% of the state population and 34% of the state’s prison population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support greater access to safe and affordable housing inclusive of all aspects of housing costs.Improve pathways to prosperity by fortifying short-term safety net programs, eliminating abrupt program exits, and streamlining application and renewal processes based on lived experiences.Implement equitable, common-sense justice reforms that reduce system involvement and recidivism while strengthening community safety, family outcomes, and individual opportunities.Connect justice-involved children to family-focused services and prevent youth from entering and persisting in the justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In partnership with JPMorgan Chase’s Advancing Cities initiative, helped 412 individuals get accepted into college.Invested \$1 million in local Black-led nonprofits through MUW's Black L.O.V.E Philanthropic Partnership.Provided wrap-around supports to ensure 407 of our neighbors could access and maintain safe, affordable housing as part of our United Community Housing Pilot.
HEALTH AND BASIC NEEDS	Addressing foundational health and urgent needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One-third of Indiana counties have no obstetric ward.Mothers with access to paid parental leave have higher employment rates after pregnancy than those without.In our region, 67% of Hispanics and non-Hispanic Black residents receive early prenatal care compared to 80% of White mothers.Our White neighbors live three years longer on average than our Black neighbors due to social determinants of health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve access to reliable, quality health care programs and services.Expand access to paid leave programs, which support Indiana’s families, workforce, and economy.Leverage service referral technology to meet needs and increase connectivity and efficiency among providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connected more than 17,000 people to providers ready to meet their needs through our service referral platform United Community.Supported 32 local agencies with a total of \$3 million to support the basic needs of families.Engaged 33,000+ volunteers to provide healthy food, beds, personal care items, school supplies and more since 2020.
NONPROFIT SECTOR	Empowering nonprofits to continue meeting critical community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nonprofits employ more than 250,000 Hoosiers, 10% of the state’s private workforce.Nonprofit employment continues to grow in all of Indiana’s 11 economic growth regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote tax policy that fuels community solutions through nonprofits and encourages philanthropic giving.Protect nonprofits’ right to advocate for their missions and civic participation on a non-partisan basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Partnered with 130 local nonprofits annually to maximize investments, build collaborative programming, and drive community progress.Supported more than 200 nonprofit organizations in joining the United Community platform to provide “no wrong door” access to comprehensive community services.

Join our

COMM[UNITY]

ON A *brighter path*

FORWARD.

**LIVE
UNITED.**



OUR MISSION

To improve lives and our community
by engaging people to give,
advocate, and volunteer.

QUESTIONS

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OUR VISION

A community whose people achieve
their fullest potential through education,
financial stability, and healthy lives.

GET INVOLVED



@metrounitedway