

*Building*

COMM[UNITY]

THROUGH *Policy*



United  
Way



Metro United Way

KENTUCKY | 2023



# METRO UNITED WAY’S PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

At Metro United Way, we know that what policy has built, programming 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 Kentucky 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"><li>Only 44% of children in Kentucky enter kindergarten ready to learn. When children start behind, they tend to stay behind.</li><li>Every dollar invested in early childhood yields a \$5 return in total benefits.</li><li>200,000+ Kentucky children want to participate in out-of-school time and after school programs but do not have available options.</li><li>After school programs provide triple the return-on-investment by increasing youth earning potential, improving school performance, and reducing crime and juvenile justice involvement.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increase the availability of affordable, high-quality early childhood education programs through public-private partnerships.</li><li>Ensure all families have access to evidence-based home visiting and parent support programs.</li><li>Enhance accessibility of high quality out-of-school-time programming.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supported the continued safe operation of 300+ local child care programs by securing and deploying more than \$5 million of regional federal relief funds.</li><li>Guided the healthy development of 801 children through MUW's Ages &amp; Stages Childhood Developmental Screener since 2021.</li><li>Launched a Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) awareness campaign with 7,100 unique visits to a new resource website.</li><li>Provided quality investment and training to 100+ youth development programs whose participants have higher school attendance and lower suspension rates than their peers.</li></ul>
ECONOMIC MOBILITY	Creating pathways out of poverty to prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>170,000+ children in Kentucky are food insecure.</li><li>In our region, non-White children are 4.3 times more likely to grow up in low-opportunity neighborhoods.</li><li>40% of individuals in our region are not in the labor force. This number could grow as more than 20% of Kentucky child care providers say they may close as COVID-19 relief resources run out.</li><li>Incarceration increases the likelihood that Kentuckians will experience poverty, yet the Commonwealth has the 8th highest incarceration rate in the nation.</li><li>Black Kentuckians represent 9% of the Commonwealth's population but 21% of the state's prison population.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support greater access to safe and affordable housing inclusive of all aspects of housing costs.</li><li>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.</li><li>Implement equitable, common-sense justice reforms that reduce system involvement and recidivism while strengthening community safety, family outcomes, and individual opportunities.</li><li>Connect justice-involved children to family-focused services and prevent youth from entering and persisting in the justice system.</li><li>Allow Kentucky voters to empower local governments to invest in regional needs by modernizing the Commonwealth's Constitution.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In partnership with JPMorgan Chase's Advancing Cities initiative, helped 412 individuals get accepted into college.</li><li>Invested \$1 million in local Black-led nonprofits through MUW's Black L.O.V.E Philanthropic Partnership.</li><li>Invested in 150 youth across three local neighborhoods by providing \$500 a month for one-year through the Young Adult Louisville Income for Transformation partnership (YALift!).</li><li>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.</li></ul>
HEALTH AND BASIC NEEDS	Addressing foundational health and urgent needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>More than half of Kentucky counties lack an OB/GYN.</li><li>Mothers with access to paid parental leave have higher employment rates after pregnancy than those without.</li><li>In our region, 67% of Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black residents receive early prenatal care compared to 80% of White mothers.</li><li>Our White neighbors live three years longer on average than our Black neighbors due to social determinants of health.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improve access to reliable, quality health care programs and services.</li><li>Expand access to paid leave programs, which support Kentucky's families, workforce, and economy.</li><li>Leverage service referral technology to meet needs and increase connectivity and efficiency among providers.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Connected more than 17,000 people to providers ready to meet their needs through our service referral platform United Community.</li><li>Supported 32 local nonprofits with a total of \$3 million to support the basic needs of families.</li><li>Provided 12,000+ lbs of beef, pork, and sheep to local food banks through Farmers Feeding Families since 2019.</li><li>Engaged 33,000+ volunteers to provide healthy food, beds, personal care items, school supplies, and more since 2020.</li></ul>
NONPROFIT SECTOR	Empowering nonprofits to continue meeting critical community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nonprofits represent the 3rd largest private sector industry in Kentucky, employing more than 150,000 individuals.</li><li>Nonprofits produce \$26 billion in expenditures benefiting Kentucky's economy.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promote tax policy that fuels community solutions through nonprofits and encourages philanthropic giving.</li><li>Protect nonprofits' right to advocate for their missions and civic participation on a non-partisan basis.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Partnered with 130 local nonprofits to maximize investments, build collaborative programming, and drive community progress.</li><li>Supported more than 200 nonprofit organizations in joining the United Community platform to provide “no wrong door” access to comprehensive community services.</li></ul>

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