

The United Way Public Policy Agenda for the 110th Congress

Legislative Advocacy Issues

The Federal Budget Process

Federal spending and revenue decisions made during the consideration of the annual federal budget affect a wide range of domestic human service programs. All of UWA's public policy priorities are impacted by the funding and revenue constraints established by the budget resolution, appropriations, entitlements and tax legislation.

Crisis Preparedness, Response and Recovery

UWA will work with national coalition partners and United Ways in the Gulf Region on short and long-term policy changes around affordable housing (namely the Disaster Voucher Program, the Community Development Block Grant, and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit), as well as the Stafford Act, so non-profits, United Ways, and 2-1-1s will be eligible to play a greater role with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in advance of, response to, and recovery from disasters. Region-specific policy changes on issues such as Child Tax Credits and IDAs will also be explored.

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)

States, local governments, and community and faith-based organizations use SSBG funds to provide a broad range of supports, from child protective services to home-based care for the ailing and elderly. This program has been cut over the last decade over \$1 billion a year. United Way will continue to advocate for the restoration of SSBG funding.



SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)

UWA strongly supports an increase to strengthen this federal program from the current level of \$153 million to \$200 million to meet demonstrated need. UWA worked closely with bipartisan champions of the program to pass its reauthorization in the Senate in the 108th Congress, providing higher funding levels and maintaining EFSP as part of FEMA. This proposal will be reintroduced next Congress and continue to receive UWA's support.

Legislative Support Issues

Affordable Housing (Section 8 Housing Vouchers, Community Development Block Grant, McKinney-Vento Homeless Programs, National Housing Trust Fund, Ten-Year Plans to End Homeless, HOME Investment Partnerships Program)

AmeriCorps / Corporation for National and Community Service

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Compassion Capital Fund

Food Stamps

Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Medicaid

Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)



EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM



CRISIS PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

United Way of America Public Policy Team

If you have any questions or would like more information on our legislative agenda, please contact us.

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what matters.™



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110th Congress

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Accelerating Change through Advocacy

United Way of America, on behalf of the United Way movement, provides leadership at the federal level on public policy priorities in partnership with our partners in the non-profit sector. We work with local United Ways and United Way state organizations to foster more public policy engagement in their communities, as grassroots advocacy is an essential complement to our work with Congress and the Administration.

UWA had notable advancements in the 109th Congress on our public policy agenda by helping to forge bipartisan alliances on Capitol Hill, giving voice to key policy positions critical to the United Way movement, and mobilizing United Ways to lobby their federal officials on priority issues. Despite our advancements, we have many more goals to achieve.

The 110th Congress brings new leadership in both the Senate and House. For UWA, this change means maintaining our commitment to non-partisan advocacy as we deepen our relationships with Democratic, Republican, and Independent allies on Capitol Hill, and cultivate new champions for our agenda.

UWA recognizes the critical role the federal government plays as a partner at the federal, state, and local levels to create sustained change in community conditions and to improve lives. Government cannot do it alone. Neither can United Ways and the rest of the social service sector.

In order to be a strong advocate, UWA will continue to lead as a national voice on core issues, be a strong coalition partner on others and lend our organizational endorsement as needed on other legislative matters. These three tiers of support are as follows:

- Legislative Leadership Priorities (Tier I)

UWA will assume a leadership role on Capitol Hill, before the Administration, and with the human services sector, proactively lobbying and bringing visibility and voice to our issues. UWA will devote significant resources to research, policy development, grassroots organization, and aggressive advocacy on these issues.

- Legislative Advocacy Issues (Tier II)

UWA will proactively develop positions, lobby, and generate grassroots support among local United Ways on an as-needed basis.

- Legislative Support Issues (Tier III)

UWA will monitor and respond to requests for support through such vehicles as signon letters. Rather than taking the lead, UWA will support the work of coalition partners who are the thought leaders on each issue.

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UWA will advocate on the following issues during the 110th Congress, beginning Jan 2007:

Legislative Leadership Priorities

The Calling For 2-1-1 Act (S.211/H.R. 211)

Legislation to help create nationwide access to 2-1-1 and was sponsored in the 109th Congress by Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and in the House by Representatives Mike Bilirakis (R-FL), Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Lee Terry (R-NE). The Calling for 2-1-1 Act gained significant bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress, with close to 200 Congressional sponsors in the Senate and House. UWA will continue to advocate for this legislation in the 110th Congress.

Non-Profit Sector Strengthening Initiatives

UWA will be a voice for non-profit accountability and transparency as Congress continues to consider legislation related to reforming tax exempt organizations. UWA was a national leader in the effort to pass new charitable giving incentives, such as the IRA Rollover, along with reforms in the 109th Congress and will continue to advocate for the non-itemizer provision and other charitable giving incentives. UWA is working closely with coalition partners on recommendations from the non-profit sector related to financial disclosure, governance, and other non-profit operating matters.

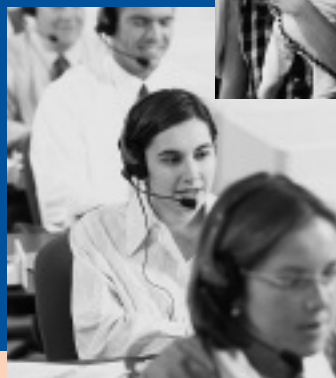
Early Childhood/Youth Development

As early childhood and youth development is one of the United Way movement's top focus areas, UWA will continue its advocacy on legislation in Congress that addresses these issues. Success By 6[®] and other early childhood initiatives have a great history of working closely with federal Head Start programs, State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP) and other state early learning and youth initiatives, serving as a collaborator and in various other roles that are most appropriate for a given community. UWA supports strengthening the federal Head Start program, passage of the Education Begins At Home Act (EBAH), support for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), revitalizing the Early Learning Fund (ELOA), and bolstering the federal SCHIP program so more children can have access to affordable health care.

Financial Stability Initiatives

United Ways constitute the largest network of organizations helping families with financial stability and opportunity. As such, UWA will advocate for legislative and regulatory policies to improve the financial stability of low to moderate income families including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), the Child Tax Credit, Savers Credits, and other homeownership and community development tax credits. These tools will help more families with limited financial resources to accumulate and preserve long-term, productive assets-savings, investments, a home, post-secondary education and training, a small business, and a nest-egg for retirement.

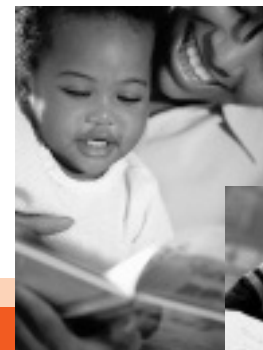
110th Congress



NON-PROFIT STRENGTHENING



EARLY CHILDHOOD/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



NATIONWIDE ACCESS TO 2-1-1

FINANCIAL STABILITY INITIATIVES