

# **Public Policy Update**

**United Way of Illinois**

**Mid-Year Board Meeting**

**United Way of McLean County**

**January 30, 2014**

# Today's Goals

- Highlight recent achievements
- Review and approve 2014 public policy agenda
- Discuss current policy proposals at the state and federal level that impact the United Way agenda

# Policy Success: Health

- Affordable Care Act expands **Medicaid** coverage and creates **online marketplaces** for individuals and businesses
  - **61,111** Illinoisans signed up for insurance through [GetCoveredIllinois.gov](http://GetCoveredIllinois.gov) by end of Dec.
  - Over 136,000 individuals successfully enrolled in Medicaid



# Policy Advocacy: Education

United Way testified at state's Joint Early Childhood Budget Hearing in December.

**GOAL:** Adequate state funding for programs proven effective, which will save costs in the long run.



- 46% of children start school without the skills they need to learn
- Skill gaps in low-income children show up as early as 18 months old
- Investments in high quality preschool and home visiting programs result in greatest impact on educational outcomes

# Policy Success: Education

- United Way sponsors learning sessions on Common Core
  - **100+** people attend in Chicago and Bloomington
  - New standards better prepare students for college and the workforce
- ISBE releases new School Report Card
  - User-friendly online format provides key information
  - Now tracks “Student Academic Growth” of elementary school students in reading and math



# Policy Success: Community Strengthening



- Human Services Commission
  - **Sept. 25:** First meeting held after being codified in 2012
  - UW serves on steering committee and Commission charged with strengthening human services sector
- Budgeting for Results
  - United Way asked to share expertise in measuring impact of funding with Commission
  - Results-based budgeting prioritizes effective programs

# 2014 Public Policy Agenda Summary

- Illinois agenda maintains same priorities YOY
- State public policy strategies updated
- Priorities continue to align with national Education, Income and Health goals
  - **EDUCATION:** Early education, parent and community engagement, OST, accountability framework
  - **INCOME:** Workforce development, income supports, savings and assets
  - **HEALTH:** Access to healthcare and prevention, healthy eating and physical activity, wellness programs

# Policy Planning Process

- National scan of current policy work being conducted by other UWs throughout system
- Survey of United Way of Illinois membership
- Review of UWW policy agenda
- Interviews with key stakeholders engaged in advocacy around Education, Income, Health and Community Strengthening
- Discussions with UW policy and program staff and contract lobbyist

# Policy Development Interviews

- Education
  - Advance Illinois, Voices for Illinois Children, Ounce of Prevention, Illinois Action for Children, Federation for Community School
- Income
  - Shriver Center, Center for Economic Progress
- Health
  - CLOCC, Healthy Schools Campaign, Health and Medicine Policy Research Group, IPHI, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Community Strengthening/Multi-Issue
  - Catholic Charities, Children's Home + Aid, Jewish Federation, Metropolitan Family Services, YMCA, Heartland Alliance, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, IPHS, Donor's Forum

# The Inquiry

Where should United Way focus its public engagement and policy efforts to achieve our Education, Income and Health outcomes?

- What partnerships should we be joining?
- What coalitions should we be participating in?
- What public education and awareness campaigns should we be promoting?
- What legislation should we be supporting/opposing?

# Proposed Illinois 2014 Policy Goals

## Education

- Make available to all children high quality, affordable early learning opportunities.
- Promote partnerships that support family engagement and community-based involvement to improve student academic achievement.
- Support comprehensive and consistent assessments and measurement standards from Pre-K through high school graduation.

## Income

- Maintain and increase access to income support programs.
- Increase the impact of financial literacy education by incorporating quality standards and saving opportunities.

## Health

- Support access to health care by connecting people to affordable, comprehensive health services.
- Combat preventable chronic disease through promotion of strategies that support wellness and healthy lifestyles.

## Community Strengthening

- Advocate for a state budget that preserves the current level of investment in Illinois' health and human services.
- Promote fair, efficient and transparent contracting practices between service providers and government funders.
- Support efforts to reduce unnecessary state administrative burdens on human service providers and their programs.
- Enhance community resources that ensure a seamless infrastructure of health and human service support for those in need.

# Federal Policy Update



# Federal Policy Advocacy

- United Way, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, AFL-CIO
  - Groups join forces to urge Congress to end the shutdown in October
    - More than 90 UW meetings held with legislators and staff including members of Illinois delegation
  - United Way also asks Congress to:
    - Restore funding for key Education, Income and Health programs
    - Support important tax priorities: EITC, Child Tax Credit, charitable deduction



# Federal Policy Advocacy

- Congress passes \$1.1 trillion budget
  - Funds federal government through September
  - Bipartisan support avoids another shutdown
- United Way priorities funded
  - **Education:** \$67 billion in discretionary funding
  - **Early Childhood:** Head Start gets \$612 million above sequester levels and Early Head Starts gets additional \$500 million
  - **Health:** \$80 million for Community Prevent Grants
  - **Income:** \$3.1 billion for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and \$82.2 billion for food stamps (SNAP)



## Annual Lobby Day in Springfield

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our 2014 Lobby Day will be Wednesday, April 30.