

# 2021 Policy & Advocacy Agenda



At Greater Twin Cities United Way, we seek to disrupt inequities and foster a region where everyone thrives, regardless of income, race or place. We recognize the deep disparities in life outcomes predictable by race as evidence of long-standing systemic racism and oppression, and believe we must both support the provision of necessary services which respond to immediate need, and work further upstream to advance policies that address the root of the challenges we face as a region. **In fact, we believe that when we unite as changemakers, we can create equitable solutions, shift narratives and drive lasting change for problems no one can solve alone.**

No one navigates poverty in isolated systems. The following agenda reflects a series of interrelated policy issues aligned with the long-term goals of our Community Impact strategy. Several agenda items also address policies to ensure nonprofit sector stability.

## ISSUES WE LEAD

- Promote, establish and maintain safe and affordable housing by supporting the prevention of homelessness through wrap-around social services, access to housing assistance and reforms to eviction/eviction expungement policy.
- Explore policies to remove systemic and programmatic barriers that prohibit families from low-wealth households from gaining economic independence, commonly known as the “benefits cliff.”
- Protect and increase existing early childhood investments, including the expansion of state reimbursement rates for early childhood care and education providers to promote greater stability across the sector’s workforce.
- Establish a Nonprofit Recovery Fund to sustain nonprofits’ ability to effectively meet immediate and longer-term community needs as a result of COVID-19.

## ISSUES WE SUPPORT

- Expand access to employment for individuals with justice system involvement.
- Increase flexibility in public funding to support employment services and career pathways.
- Expand funding and policies to advance afterschool, summer youth enrichment and career pathway programs.
- Improve reliable access to healthy, nutritious meals that meet the needs of individuals and families.
- Create a dedicated, permanent funding source for the construction of homes affordable to people with low incomes.

## ISSUES WE ENDORSE

- Maintain federal conformity for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to fully access federal funds.
- Expand access to high-quality early care and education to all families from low-wealth households.
- Advance policies to reduce student financial responsibilities for post-secondary education.
- Protect and expand charitable giving tax incentives.
- Strengthen and expand access to 24/7 information referral services.
- Preserve federal poverty guidelines that maintain or increase current eligibility.

# Changemakers Unite

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