

2020 Policy and Advocacy Agenda

Greater Twin Cities United Way envisions a region where all people realize their full potential, regardless of income, race or place. Through community investments and strategic advocacy, we're working to create lasting systems change for communities across our impact areas, including household stability, educational success and economic opportunity.



HOUSEHOLD STABILITY

LEAD:

- Increase state investments for social services that help households maintain stable homes.
- Advance tenant reforms that require prior notice of eviction and establish state statutes for record expungement.

SUPPORT:

- Establish standardized tenant screening processes.
- Create a dedicated, permanent funding source for the construction of homes that are affordable to low income individuals and families.

ENDORSE/MONITOR:

Advance policies that provide equitable access to healthy, nutritious meals in schools and communities.



EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

LEAD:

Protect existing investments for early learning scholarships, targeted home visiting and the Parent Aware quality rating system.

SUPPORT:

- Achieve federal conformity for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to fully access federal funds available.
- Expand funding and policies to advance career and future readiness programs, including afterschool, summer youth enrichment and career pathways programs.

ENDORSE/MONITOR:

- Advance funding and policies to increase access to concurrent enrollment programs that allow high school students to earn college course credits.
- Advance policies to reduce student financial responsibilities for post-secondary education.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

LEAD:

Explore policies to create a “sliding” income threshold to slowly decrease benefits relative to increased earnings that will provide a bridge to financial independence.

SUPPORT:

- Establish Pathways to Prosperity grants as a permanent program within the state’s base budget that includes automatic forecasting and funding by DEED for the budget biennium.
- Increase investments for workforce education and training programs, including Pathways to Prosperity grants.
- Expand access to employment for individuals with prior criminal records.

ENDORSE/MONITOR:

Advance improvements and modernization of state workforce data collection and reporting systems.

NONPROFIT SECTOR STABILITY

SUPPORT:

Support the advancement of a fully inclusive and accurate 2020 Census count in Minnesota.

ENDORSE/MONITOR:

- Protect and expand charitable giving tax incentives.
- Preserve federal poverty guidelines that maintain or increase current eligibility.
- Strengthen and expand access to 24/7 information referral services.