

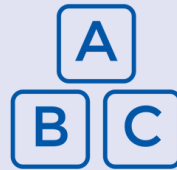
# UNITED WAY FOR GREATER AUSTIN PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA | 2025-2026

Approved by the Board on October 23, 2024

United Way for Greater Austin breaks the cycle of economic inequality – striving to create a vibrant, thriving community for all. Recognizing the urgency of addressing economic disparity, we focus on increasing the availability of **high-quality early care and education and access to essential resources to dismantle economic barriers in Central Texas**. Our united front includes dedicated donors, volunteers, corporate and civic partners, staff, and an engaged community. Together, we leverage data, coalitions, services, and advocacy to transform Central Texas, responding to urgent needs with lasting, impactful solutions.

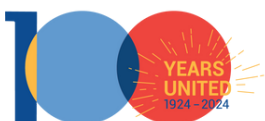
*High-quality*

## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION



Ensure children are set up for long-term success by providing a strong foundation in the early years. To achieve this, we will advocate for:

- Strengthening evidence-based practices, including home visiting and parent education services to improve maternal and child health, encourage positive parenting, promote optimal child development, and reduce abuse and neglect.
- Strengthen licensing supports and network hubs for family child care settings.
- Expanding access to prenatal and perinatal services such as Family Connects, Family Pathways, and Early Childhood Intervention (ECI).
- Increase state and local investments and partnerships for innovative funding models, such as Pre-Kindergarten Partnerships, Pre-Kindergarten classroom start-up costs, Shared Service Alliance Hubs, and research-based, high-impact literacy tutoring programs in local Title 1 schools.
- Access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education and expanding the early education workforce.
- Increase access to quality child care outside of traditional hours.
- Coordinated and efficient data systems across state agencies that regulate early childhood services.
- Opportunities to engage the private sector in support of early childhood ecosystems.
- Closing long-standing inequities in K-3rd grade elementary literacy attainment.
- Initiatives aimed at improving young learners' social and emotional skills and well-being.
- Increasing access to quality out-of-school and summer programs that are designed to sustain and increase students' learning achievement.



United Way for Greater Austin brings our community together to break economic barriers and build opportunity for all.

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# UNITED WAY FOR GREATER AUSTIN

## PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA | 2025-2026

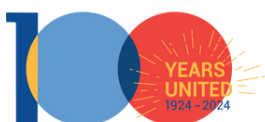
### Access to ESSENTIAL RESOURCES



Ensure individual and family basic needs are met by connecting people to the resources they need, when they need them. To achieve this, we will advocate for:

- Pregnant and postpartum moms and their families so they are connected to the community resources necessary for positive maternal health outcomes.
- Clear pathways and reduced barriers for parents and guardians to continue their education and obtain and advance in employment that earns family-sustaining wages.
- Connected support network of resources for parents, guardians, and whole families.
- Implementation of 2-Gen and family-friendly services and policies.
- Health and social sector partnerships to build a community information exchange that enables our community to shift away from reactive approaches and towards proactive, holistic, person-centered care.
- Robust social services navigation systems including 2-1-1 and ConnectATX to address non-medical drivers of health, such as access to quality food, employment, housing, and transportation.
- Access to mental health and substance abuse services through streamlined navigation and care coordination.
- Policies and practices that strengthen the financial health of our community members, including fair lending practices, financial literacy, credit repair, asset building, and access to banking.

For more information, contact [advocacy@uwatx.org](mailto:advocacy@uwatx.org).



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