EDUCATION
We support...
• Increased funding and access to high-quality, equitable education, including: early childhood programs, early care and education (birth to 8 years), public pre-K-12, and adult workforce re-entry.
• Using evidence-based programs to engage students not in high school to increase graduation rates and improve college and career-readiness.
• Increased funding and access to career and technical education programs, with an emphasis on areas of high community need and impact.
• Increasing the diversity of resources to fund early care and education (e.g., using the federal Child Care Development Block Grant to increase access and quality to childcare by increasing child care subsidy rates).
• Increased funding and access to Arizona's community colleges and public universities.
• Increased resources to address disparities in access to internet and broadband/digital technology.
• Efforts to support and retain the educational workforce.
• Education of stakeholders about issues affecting our communities in the areas of education (e.g., challenges with access, equity, inclusion, the digital divide), financial wellness, and health.

FINANCIAL WELLNESS
We support...
• Preserving and strengthening programs that promote financial wellness (e.g., Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child Care Tax Credit, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families).
• Initiatives to support the workforce, including training and professional development, particularly for those disproportionately affected by employment stress and disruption.
• Policies and programs that support financial literacy and wellness.
• Efforts to eliminate predatory lending practices.
• Policies and programs that promote access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.
• Educational efforts about historical inequities in financial, housing, banking systems and how they continue to impact vulnerable populations and their progress toward financial wellness today.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
We support...
• Access to high quality mental health and trauma-informed policies and programs.
• Adequate funding and access to comprehensive health insurance including dental and mental health (e.g., Kids Care, AHCCCS, Medicaid, and Medicare) and healthcare services and supplies (including access to telehealth) for all.
• Policies and programs that promote access to healthy food across the lifespan (e.g., WIC, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).
• Access to high quality home and community-based services.
• Policies to improve end-of-life issues, education, and care for all ages.
• Policies and programs that address the unique infrastructure access, needs, and contributions of rural communities.

THRIVING NON-PROFIT SECTOR
We support...
• The preservation and expansion of charitable giving incentives and charitable tax credits to support a thriving non-profit community.
• Partnerships across all sectors, including with other non-profit organizations.
• Policies and programs that support the non-profit workforce.

United Way’s Public Policy Committee
• Andrew Bevington, Pima County School Superintendent’s Office
• Jacinta Esquer, La Suprema Works & Events
• Deepa Dalvi, Ventana Medical Systems, Vice Chair
• Frank Grijalva, IBEW 7th District
• Libby Howell, Pima Community College
• Colleen Mathis, Caterpillar, Inc.
• Paul Stapleton-Smith, Community Organizer
• Matthew Thrower, DPR Construction, Chair
• Tony Penn, President and CEO, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
• Allison Titcomb, Chief Impact Officer/Senior Vice President, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona (Board Liaison)
• Christina Cutshaw, Director, Health and Public Policy, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona (Committee Staff)
LIVE UNITED

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona (UWTSA) envisions a community where every child receives a high quality education from cradle to career, every adult has the opportunity to thrive financially and at work and every older person can retire and age with dignity. We work for this vision by bringing partners from every sector - business, non-profit, government, health, education and social services - together, to tackle problems in our community and work for change. Public policy at local, state and national levels has an important role to play in making change in our community. We work with our partners, including United Way affiliates in Arizona and United Way Worldwide to educate and advocate for effective policy.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

GIVE - ADVOCATE - VOLUNTEER

• Educate yourself about the needs and issues in your community.
• Tell your elected officials and candidates about critical needs in your community.
• Share your stories and issues with us.

GIVE

• Provide information about education, financial wellness and health issues to stakeholders.
• Support efforts to partner across sectors to work together for change.

ADVOCATE

• YES: You can advocate for change by making your voice heard and by supporting the work we are doing.

VOLUNTEER

• Volunteer your time and skills to help make change happen.

ABOUT US

Many factors affect our community’s ability to thrive, including conditions where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age. United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona’s 2023 Public Policy Agenda reflects our priorities in addressing these factors, and in particular: education, financial wellness, and health, and our acknowledgement of the interaction between them. We aim to:

EDUCATION

Improve educational and life outcomes for children, youth and young adults by advancing equity and excellence in education.

FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Improve the equity of employment and financial wellness outcomes of adults and families for life-long well-being.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Provide equitable access through education and resources to improve the quality of living and dying for older people and their families.