2020 Public Policy Agenda

United Way’s Mission is to Improve Lives by Mobilizing the Caring Power of the Community
Creating Systemic Change and Transforming Individual Lives

Since 1925, Valley of the Sun United Way has unified diverse partners: donors, business supporters, non-profits, government, and faith-based communities to build a stronger Valley for us all. Together, with our 90,000 donors, 400 business supporters, and 5,000 volunteers, we unite to encourage a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion at the center of our daily work. We acknowledge that every person brings a unique perspective and experience to advance our mission and progress to end the cycle of poverty in Maricopa County.

United Way is the Valley’s top non-profit investor in health and human development, touching thousands of lives every year. We bring together partners from every sector – public, private, non-profit – to create solutions that 1) drive systemic change that impacts entire communities; and, 2) transform individual lives. Together, we’ll fight poverty and build a stronger community for all.

Uniting Against Poverty

Guided by our Board of Directors, partners, and community leaders, United Way has aligned our focus and resources to specific goals. We fight poverty by connecting volunteers to their passions, working with select communities and empowering them to develop their action plan, and uniting donors who want to create solutions.

Together we work towards the goals we all share; quality education for our children, a safe place to live, food on the table, and the independence and dignity of financial stability.

Ensure Children and Youth Succeed in School

- Restore funding cuts and maintain current program levels in education, including early childhood, such as First Things First (FTF).
- Support funding for a statewide data system that provides teachers, administrators, school-based staff, and community stakeholders comprehensive real-time data as a tool to increase student achievement.
- Maintain and expand quality out-of-school time programs that positively impact children’s learning.
- Support rigorous learning standards with appropriate resources and training for children, families, and teachers.
- Support increased access to quality extended learning opportunities to engage students in academic content and reduce summer learning loss.
- Support bills that reflect the agreed-upon measures within the Arizona Education Progress Meter.
- Preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Public Policy & Advocacy Committee 2020

Don Smith, CPCU - Chair
Former President and CEO
CopperPoint Mutual Insurance

Penny Allee Taylor
Chief Public Policy Officer
Valley of the Sun United Way

Ruben Alvarez
Co-Founder, Managing Partner
Molera Alvarez, LLC

Richard Bark
Director, Government Relations & Environmental Counsel
Freeport-McMoRan

Michael Bielecki
Principal, Government Relations Group
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

Jennifer Cranston
Attorney
Gallagher & Kennedy, P.A.

Neil Giuliano
President and CEO
Greater Phoenix Leadership

Dave Howell
Director, State Government Relations
Wells Fargo

Mike Huckins
Vice President, Public Policy
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce

Emily Mead
Sr. Program Manager Arizona Public Institute for Sustainable Communities

Wendy Valenzuela
Government Relations Director
Arizona Public Service/Pinnacle West

Warren Whitney
Senior VP Government Affairs
Valleywise Health
Ensure Children Succeed Cont.

- Restore and maintain Early Head Start and Head Start funding at or above pre-sequestration levels.
- Support funding and implementation of Childcare and Development Block Grants.
- Maintain funding for the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act that supports non-congregate meal programs, builds summer and after school programs, and improves meal programs, including breakfast in the classroom.

End Hunger and Homelessness

- Coordinate Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) with local schools where 75% of the students qualify for free and reduced meals.
- Support and encourage permanent supportive housing using a Housing First model for chronically homeless individuals with cities, towns, and the county.
- Support and promote funding for Rapid Rehousing for individuals and families that have experienced episodic homelessness and need assistance to stabilize in a safe and affordable place to call home.
- Encourage public and private funders to align their resources to the regional plan to prevent and end homelessness without racial or cultural bias.
- Encourage cities and towns to amend their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) plans to allow for social service grant partnerships with non-profits to address food insecurity, emergency food, and nutrition within food deserts.

Increase the Financial Stability of Families

- Improve the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to deliver health plan options that are affordable, accessible, and provides adequate services.
- Support workforce development programs for adults and young adults focused on job/career training and placement, increased educational opportunities, and support services that eliminate barriers to obtaining and sustaining employment.
- Ensure access to affordable childcare to enable parents to gain and maintain employment.
- Work to prevent onerous Payday and Title Loan legislation.
- Maintain the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, which are valuable resources that help provide stability for low-income families.
- Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit for struggling childless adults.

Non-profit Capacity Building

United Way also plays a role in non-profit capacity building and community strengthening. United Way supports initiatives that seek to strengthen communities by enhancing the non-profit sector’s capacity to serve through tax policy, expansion of the 211 system, and policy incentives and regulations that encourage philanthropy, volunteering, and innovation.

- Support the Charitable Tax Credit that provides funding to qualifying charitable organizations for diverse programs that lead individuals toward increased self-sufficiency.
- Support funding for 211 Arizona Community Information and Referral for community and social services.
- Maintain the Charitable Tax Deduction for donors to help vulnerable individuals and families.
Our Leadership 2020

Jennifer Holsman Tetreault - 
Board Chair 
West Regional Counsel 
US Foods 
Mary Alexander 
Executive VP and General Counsel 
DMB Associates, Inc. 
Ruben Alvarez 
Co-Founder, Managing Partner 
Molina Alvarez, LLC 
Robyn Arnell Brenden – 
Board Treasurer 
Sr. VP and Chief Accounting Officer 
CWT 
Michael Bielecki 
Principal, Government Relations Group 
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, LLP 
Phylis Bruner 
Director of Human Resources 
Broph College Preparatory 
Chris Camacho 
President and CEO 
Greater Phoenix Economic Council 
Steve Evans 
Community Leader 
Susan Frank 
Community Leader 
Daniel Froetscher 
Executive VP of Operations 
Arizona Public Service Company (APS) 
Chad Gestson, Ed.D. 
Superintendent 
Phoenix Union High School District 
John Gibson 
Region Bank President, Southern Arizona 
Wells Fargo Bank 
Neil Giuliano 
President and CEO 
Greater Phoenix Leadership 
John Graham (H) 
President & CEO 
Sunbelt Holdings 
Maria Harper-Marinick, Ph.D. 
Chancellor 
Maricopa Community Colleges 
Hope Levin 
Regional President for Arizona 
Johnson Financial Group 
Ken Levine 
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer 
Nationwide P&C Specialty Lines 
Laura LoBianco 
Partner 
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, LLP 
Chris McCurdy 
Sr. Vice President, Supply Chain PetSmart 
Emily Mead 
Sr. Program Manager 
Institute for Sustainable Communities 
Gonzalo de la Melena (H) 
Managing Partner 
Emerging Airport Ventures 
Jeff Meshey 
President & CEO 
Desert Financial Credit Union 
Nina Mullins 
Sr. Director, Land and Papago Park Center 
Salt River Project (SRP) 
Kathleen Quirk 
Executive VP, CFO and Treasurer 
Freeport-McMoRan 
Joy Rich 
County Manager 
Maricopa County 
Vince Roig 
Chairman 
Helios Education Foundation 
Avein Saaty-Tafoya, MD 
Community Leader 
Todd Sanders 
President and CEO 
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce 
Mark Schiavoni - Immediate Past Chair 
Community Leader 
Brad Smith - Board Secretary 
Partner 
Deloitte 
Donald Smith, Jr., CPCU 
Community Leader 
Mike Tully 
Community Leader 
Christine Wilkinson 
Sr. VP and Secretary of ASU 
President & CEO, ASU Alumni Assn. 
Arizona State University 
Ed Zuercher 
City Manager 
City of Phoenix

For more information, contact: 
Penny Allee Taylor, Chief Public Policy Officer 
Valley of the Sun United Way 
Office: 602.631.4808 | Mobile: 602.688.3674 
Email: palleetaylor@vsuw.org | To learn more visit vsuw.org