



# 2025 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

United Way Allen County advocates for systemic change through policy. Together, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to use our voices to break down barriers to success and create meaningful, sustainable change. Our approach to policy is non-partisan and issue focused as we aim to inform, educate, and build consensus.

## HEALTHY COMMUNITY

**United Way of Allen County supports policies that enable residents to take care of their basic needs as well as their physical and mental health and wellbeing.**

- Senior well-being – Support the Credit for Caring Act to allow caregivers to receive a tax credit while providing care to their loved ones as they age.
- Maternal & Child Health – Educate the community of the disparities in maternal and child healthcare to ensure that all mothers and infants have positive health outcomes.
- Mental Health – Increase both education and access to trauma-informed and culturally responsive care, practices and resources throughout education, health, human services and criminal justice systems.
- Housing :
  - Increase the supply of safe, accessible, and affordable housing, while ensuring the preservation of existing affordable housing units remain for residents of Allen County.
  - Support eviction prevention policies that provide representation to households facing eviction.
- Food:
  - Preserve and improve food security programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
  - Expand access to school meals for children.



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## FINANCIAL SECURITY

**United Way of Allen County supports policies that lead to a more sustainable economic environment for all.**

- Childcare – Increase affordability of childcare by expanding childcare subsidy eligibility for families and increasing subsidy reimbursement rates for providers
- Transportation – Increase public transportation funding to prevent the reduction of services provided to residents relying on transportation to get to and from work, home, and school.
- Workforce development – To strengthen the local and regional workforce, we advocate for policies and programming that support individuals in obtaining a credential or degree.
- Paid Leave – Ensure workers have the ability to earn paid time off so they can take care of themselves.

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

**United Way of Allen County supports the advancement of quality education from infancy through post-secondary.**

- Childcare & Early Learning - Increase the supply and sustainability of high-quality early care and education for children.
- Post-secondary (College & Career readiness):
  - Invest in students by expanding and securing additional funding for wraparound services like childcare, transportation and income supports for participants of post-secondary and skills-training programs, enabling them to complete their goals.
  - Support funding for career and technical education programs for youth, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and other non-traditional groups that will create multiple pathways to livable wage jobs.