

2014 FLORIDA UNITED WAY CONSENSUS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD

Florida's 32 United Ways lead the state in investing private contributions, generously provided by people from all walks of life, in health, education, income, and safety net initiatives that improve the lives of individuals and families – and entire communities – every day. United Ways are local people solving local problems with local solutions; people and communities that Live United.

As with other for-profit and non-profit businesses, decisions made by government at all levels affect the ability of United Ways and communities to implement solutions to their problems. Laws, rules, regulations, policies and appropriations have an enormous impact on how – and if – United Way can move forward with community leaders and partners to successfully address some of the biggest challenges facing our state.

United Way supports a range of issues to advance its mission. The *2014 Florida United Way Consensus Legislative Agenda* represents the priorities that Florida's United Ways will focus on during the 2014 Florida Legislative Session.

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

PRIORITY ISSUES:

- **Early Learning** - Florida's United Ways urge the 2014 Florida Legislature to provide access to high quality early learning programs for all children.
- **Access to Healthcare** - Florida's United Ways urge the 2014 Florida Legislature to provide access to affordable healthcare for all Floridians.
- **Financial Stability** - Florida's United Ways urge Congress to reauthorize financial stability programs and to preserve and strengthen tax credits for low income households.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Florida's United Ways urge the Florida Legislature to apply these Guiding Principles as it considers budgetary and legislative issues during the 2014 Legislative Session:

- ✓ **State Budget** – When making budget decisions, the Legislature should make strategic investments by, among others, maximizing revenues to draw down all available federal funds and focusing on cost-effective, proven programs.
- ✓ **Local Control** – The 2013 Florida Legislature should support the authority of local government and locally approved entities to determine the best use of resources.
- ✓ **Focus on Prevention** – To the greatest extent possible, the 2013 Florida Legislature should orient state spending to prevention programs that will save the state money in the long run.