



United Ways of Iowa

## United Ways at a Glance

**A network of 21 local United Ways serving Iowa communities. Each UWI member is governed by a board of local volunteers who convene communities to determine local needs, set priorities and make investment decisions.**



# 2024 Legislative Priorities

## EDUCATION

*United Ways of Iowa supports policies that promote a strong start to education and emphasize early grade reading skills to serve as a foundation for lifelong success.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Proficiency.** Support state funding (\$500,000) for the Iowa Reading Corps Program, serving over 1,000 K-3rd graders annually with a \$1.1 million federal grant. Approximately 70% of students exit the program reading at grade level or higher.

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

*United Ways of Iowa supports policies that encourage Iowans to achieve the skills and supports necessary to obtain and maintain self-supporting work.*

**Child Care.** Support policies to address access to high-quality, affordable child care and early childhood education, including increased wages and benefits to grow our child care workforce, and expand Child Care Assistance benefits to support working families.

**Food Insecurity.** Support state investment in the Double Up Food Bucks program, allowing families greater access to locally grown, high-quality food.

**Housing.** Support efforts to increase access to affordable housing in local communities across Iowa.

## HEALTH

*United Ways of Iowa supports policies that ensure a full continuum of healthcare services for vulnerable Iowans.*

**Children's Health & Well-Being.** Support efforts to strengthen the children's mental and behavioral health system in Iowa by supporting the recommendations of the Coalition to Advance Mental Health in Iowa for Kids (CAMHI4KIDS).

**Access to Dental Health Care.** Support investments to increase access to dental care for low-income Iowans across the state.

**Strengthen Families.** Support the recommendations of ACES 360 (Adverse Childhood Experiences).