



United Ways of Florida Policy Briefing

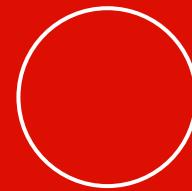
February 5, 2026



HELP Act Update and 211 Virtual Fly-In

- HELP Act
 - Status and co-sponsors
- 211 Virtual Fly-In (meetings) the week of February 9-13
 - Register today
 - Office Hour on February 5
 - United Way staff and our consultants are here to help with scheduling and participating in your meetings.
 - Showcase the great work 211s do to serve constituents, promote the HELP Act, strengthen relationship with Congressional offices/staff.

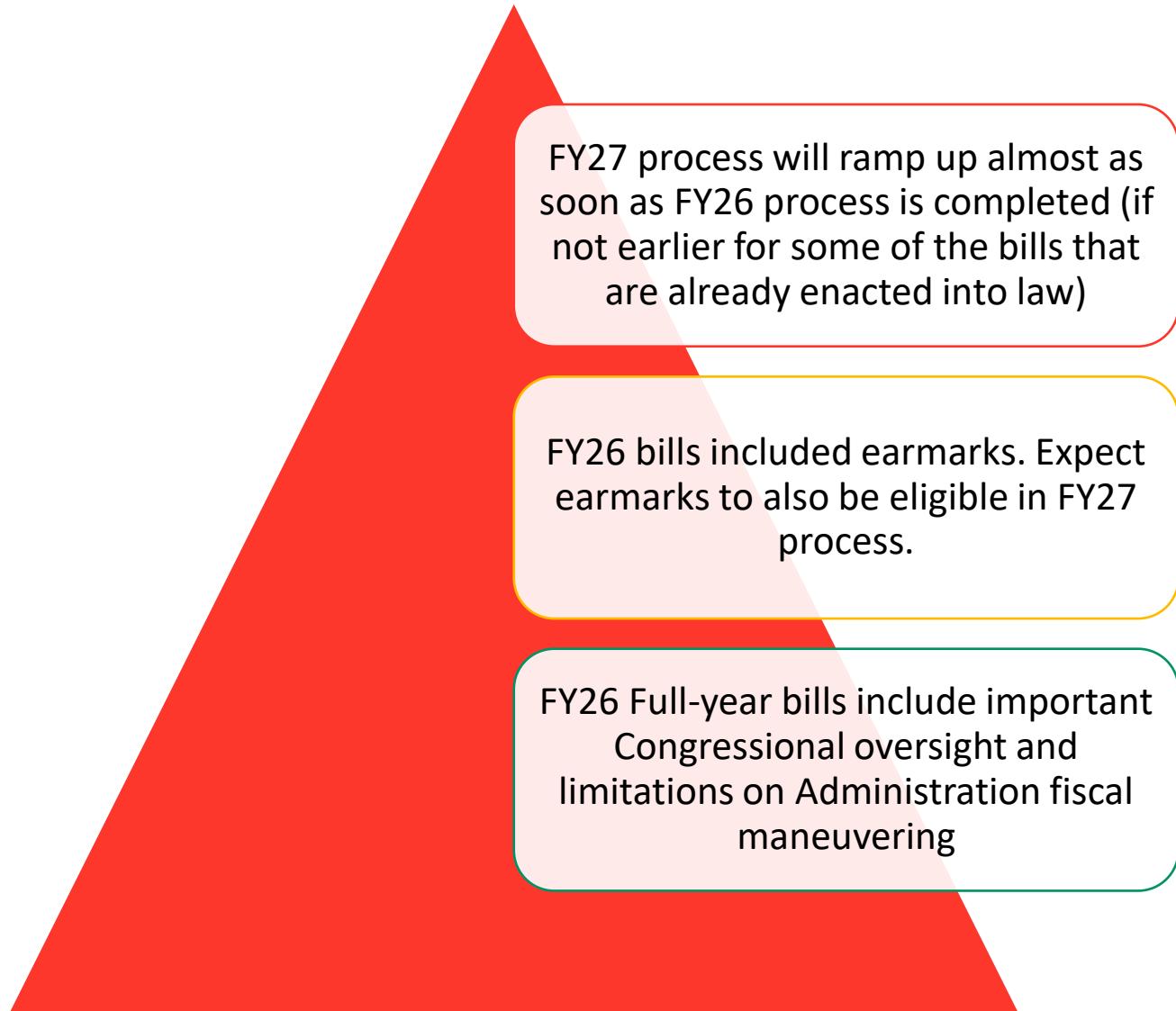




Federal Update



FY26 Appropriations Status



FY27 process will ramp up almost as soon as FY26 process is completed (if not earlier for some of the bills that are already enacted into law)

FY26 bills included earmarks. Expect earmarks to also be eligible in FY27 process.

FY26 Full-year bills include important Congressional oversight and limitations on Administration fiscal maneuvering

Appropriations Priorities - Corporation for National Community Service

Included in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

AmeriCorps State and National Grants: \$557 million (same as enacted level)	VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America): \$103 (same as enacted level)	Rejects the President's Budget Request proposal to eliminate AmeriCorps
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Appropriations Priorities - Elementary and Secondary Education

Included in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

Title I: \$18.426 billion	Full Service Community Schools: \$150 million (same as enacted level)	21st Century Community Learning Centers: \$1.329 billion (same as enacted level)	Statewide Family Engagement Centers: \$20 million (same as enacted level)	Promise Neighborhoods: \$91 million (same as enacted level)
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Appropriations Priorities - Higher Education

Included in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

Pell Grants: \$22.475 billion

- Sets the maximum grant at \$6,335 for the discretionary funding for Pell Grants; combined with the mandatory funding, the total maximum award is \$7,395
- Same as enacted level
- Rejects the President's Budget Request proposal to reduce the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,710

Appropriations Priorities - Children and Families

Included in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

Child Care Development Block Grant: \$8.831 billion (\$85 million increase from enacted)	Community Services Block Grant: \$810 million; rejects the President's Budget Request proposal to eliminate the CSBG program (\$40 million increase from enacted)	Head Start: \$12.356 billion (\$85 million increase from enacted)	LIHEAP: \$4.045 billion; rejects the President's Budget Request proposal to eliminate LIHEAP (\$20 million increase from enacted)	Preschool Development Grants: \$315 million (same as enacted level)
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Appropriations Priorities - SAMHSA

Included in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

\$2.823 billion for Mental Health Services (\$15 million increase from enacted)

\$4.172 billion for Substance Use Disorder Services and Treatment Programs (\$13 million increase from enacted)

Appropriations Priorities - Labor

Included in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

WIOA Adult Program: \$875 million (\$10 million decrease from enacted level)	WIOA Youth Program: \$948 million (same as enacted level)	WIOA Dislocated Worker Program: \$1.396 billion (same as enacted level)	Apprenticeship Program: \$285 million (same as enacted level)	YouthBuild: \$105 million (same as enacted level)
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Appropriations Priorities - HUD

Included in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

Community Development Block Grants: \$6.995 billion for the Community Development Fund, including \$3.3 billion for the CDBG (large increase over enacted because no earmarks in FY25)	Homeless Assistance Grants: \$4.417 billion (same as enacted level)	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance: \$38.438 (Same as enacted level) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voucher renewals: \$34.957 billion• Tenant protection vouchers: \$600 million• Administrative fees: \$2.835 billion• Tribal HUD-VASH: \$15 million• Family Unification Program: \$30 million	Continuum of Care: \$4.01 billion; includes language to allow for 1-year transition grants (same as enacted level)
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Appropriations Priorities - VITA

Included in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill

Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Matching Grants Program:
not less than \$46 million

Appropriations Priorities - WIC and Nutrition

Included in the Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Bill – signed into law in November

WIC: \$8.2 billion -- \$603 million more than FY25 enacted and \$894 million more than the President's Budget Request

Child Nutrition: \$37.841 billion

- \$18.691 for National School Lunch Program (mandatory funding)
- \$6.589 for School Breakfast Program (mandatory funding)
- \$904 million for Summer Food Program (mandatory funding)

SNAP: \$107.481 billion (mandatory funding)

Appropriations Priorities - EFSP and FEMA

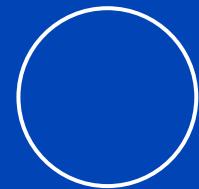
Included in the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill – not yet law

EFSP: \$123.5 million; \$6.5 million more than enacted

- Rejects the President's Budget Request proposal to eliminate the program

FEMA Disaster Preparedness Grants

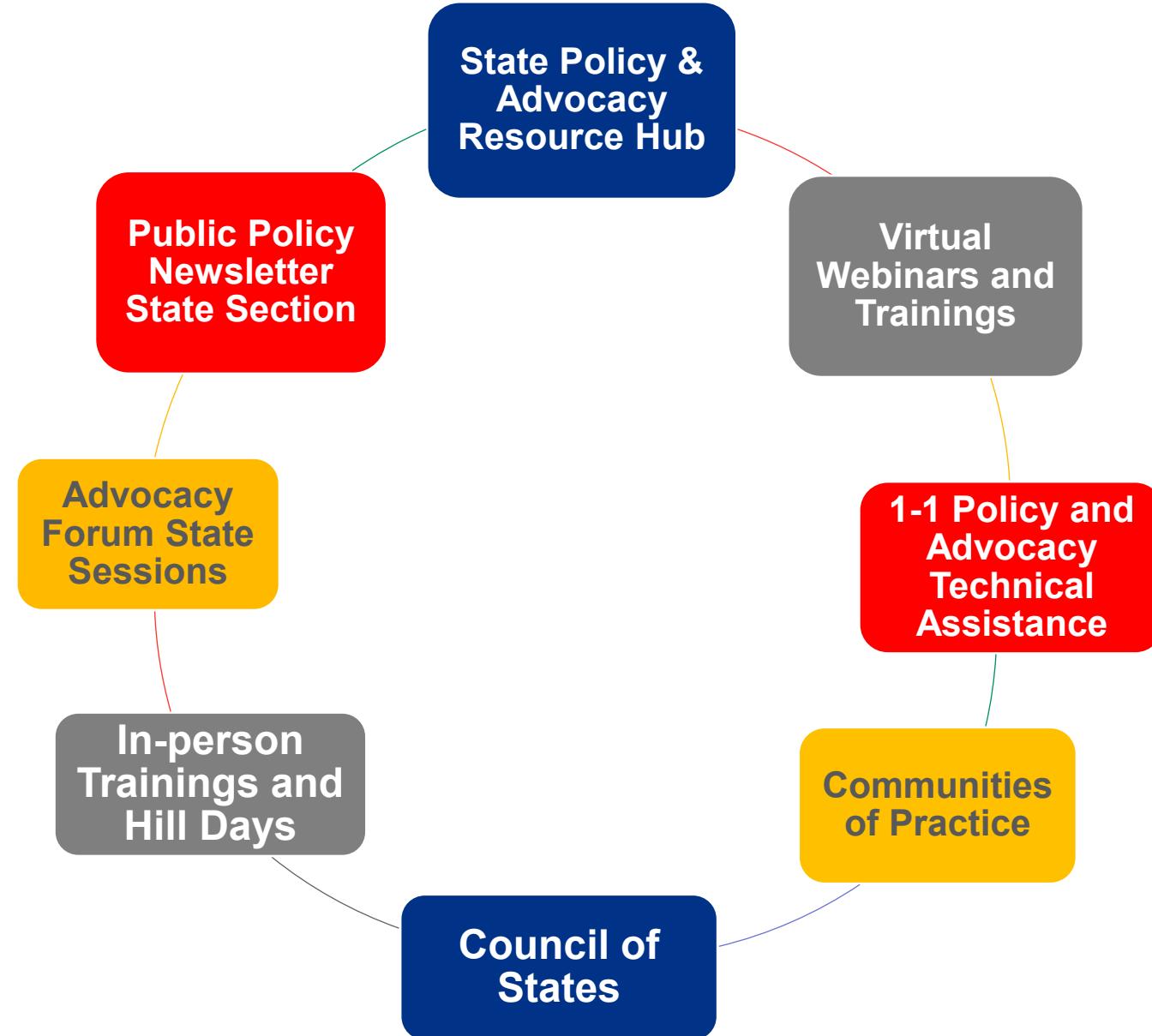
- \$15.2 million for Continuing Training Grants
- \$300 million for Nonprofit Security Grant Program
- The bill and report are silent on the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program



State Policy Update



The State Policy Team's Core U.S. Network Engagement Functions



UWO State Policy and Advocacy Resource Hub

Network Resources

Healthy Community

- [211-988 Community Mental Health Funding Legislative Background](#) - Indiana United Ways
- [School Based Mental Health Legislative Fact Sheet](#) - United Way of Greater Milwaukee Waukesha County
- [Youth Mental Health Funding Talking Points](#) - United Way of Greater Milwaukee Waukesha County
- [SNAP and ALICE Data Testimony Michigan Housing and Human Services Committee](#) - Michigan Association of United Ways

Youth Opportunity

- [Sharing the Impact: Community Schools Strategy in Idaho](#) - United Way of Treasure Valley

Financial Security

- [Child Tax Credit \(HB 7272\) Legislative Letter of Support](#) - United Way of Connecticut
- [California Child Tax Credit \(AB 397\) Legislative Fact Sheet](#) - United Ways of California
- [Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit \(HB 820\) Fact Sheet](#) - United Ways of Pennsylvania
- [Housing Talking Points](#) - Indiana United Ways
- [Workforce Housing Assistance Program \(HB 1519\) Legislative Background](#) - Indiana United Ways



Policy Agendas

- [Legislative Priorities for California Capitol Day 2025](#) - United Ways of California
- [Public Policy Platform 2025](#) - Indiana United Ways
- [Legislative Priorities and ALICE In Iowa Data](#) - United Ways of Iowa
- [ALICE Policy Agenda with District Data](#) - Lubbock Area United Way
- [ALICE Profile and Legislative Agenda](#) - United Way of Broward County
- [2025 Policy and Advocacy Toolkit](#) - United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

Advocacy Communications

- [Advocacy 101 Slide Deck](#) - United Way Southeast Michigan
- [211 Funding Digital Toolkit](#) - United Way of Pennsylvania
- [Communicating with Elected Officials Guide](#) - Indiana United Ways
- [Communicating United Way's Role in Current Climate Guide](#) - Council of States
- [State Child Tax Credit Communication Materials Presentation](#) - United Way of Connecticut
- [Best Practices for Engaging Government Officials](#) - Brown County United Way

Strategy & Operations

- [Public Policy Criteria Flow Chart](#) - United Way of Anchorage
- [Public Policy Committee Charter](#) - United Way of Anchorage
- [Public Policy Committee Process](#) - United Way of Anchorage

Communities of Practice

State Policy and Advocacy Professionals Group



Any United Way or state association engaged in state policy and advocacy



Report advocacy progress, troubleshoot challenges, and learn about new policy opportunities



Meetings on the second Monday monthly at 2:00pm EST



Visit the [State Policy & Advocacy Resource Hub](#) to sign-up!

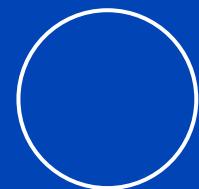


Rural and Small Advocacy Capacity-Building Group

Any United Way interested in growing their state policy and advocacy efforts within rural areas and have a small staff size.

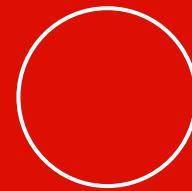
Trainings to address advocacy challenges unique to areas with small populations and limited government resources.

Meetings on the fourth Monday bi-monthly at 2:30pm EST



Questions and Discussion





Resources



2026 Advocacy Forum and Hill Day

- April 27-29 at Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA
- Three days of strategy, training, best practice sharing, and direct advocacy on Capitol Hill.
- Professional development, networking, and learning opportunities for United Way staff, 211 leaders, board members, and volunteers to strengthen policy advocacy, learn from peers, and expand their networks.
- Travel stipends are available, recommended that you apply before February 20.
- Register today.

State Policy & Advocacy Wins & Lesson Learned Survey

United Way is driving impact through policy and advocacy, and we want to celebrate and learn from your successes! Please take a few minutes to complete our [State Policy & Advocacy Wins & Lessons Learned Survey](#). Your input will help UWW:

- Highlight advocacy wins across the network.
- Collect best practices and lessons learned for network-wide learning.
- Plan compelling content for the Advocacy Forum in April 2026.
- Tell powerful stories to decision makers, funders, media, and partners to support your important work.

UWW Resources

United Way Online (UWO) Pages

- [Public Policy](#)
- [Navigating U.S. Federal Policy Change](#)
- [State Policy & Advocacy Resource Hub](#)
- [Federal to State Policy Resource Hub](#)

Public Policy Newsletter (PPN) – [Subscribe here](#)



