



# 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

# 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)



# 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)

# 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)

- 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)

# 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



## 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

**Visit the State Policy & Advocacy  
Resource Hub to sign-up!**



# 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](#)**



