

UNITED WE FIGHT.
UNITED WE WIN.

LIVE UNITED

PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

2022-2025

United Way Bay Area inspires and connects people to break the cycle of poverty in the Bay Area by supporting both the short-term needs and long-term systems change. Our policy agenda aligns to provide greater support to our impact areas including meeting basic needs, financial stability, workforce development, and housing justice. Valuing the aspects of our diverse communities, we also work to ensure policies provide an equitable framework to lift communities of color upwards.

HOUSING JUSTICE

UWBA will fight for housing stability and affordability to provide a stable economic foundation for families by:

- Exploring policies to create pathways to affordable housing for low-income Bay Area residents, including communities of color and transitional age youth
- Preserving and protecting the current supply of affordable housing
- Increasing opportunities for affordable housing along transportation corridors
- Using equitable data with racial wealth gap focuses to create more inclusive communities for residents of diverse backgrounds

SAFETY NET SERVICES

UWBA will lead efforts to create and support stronger policies that work to lift Bay Area residents out of poverty, including:

- Creating permanent or more long-term funding for safety net services for Bay Area residents
- Working with local and state officials to give more incentives for entrepreneurs providing healthier food options in low-income communities
- Developing quality and affordable early childhood education and childcare programs for working and low-income families
- Establishing and maintaining partnerships with community college systems to develop basic needs centers for students



ECONOMIC SUCCESS

UWBA will work to lead and support efforts to create a more sustainable economic environment for all Bay Area residents by:

- Making permanent the extension of federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF)/CalWORKS for working families and individuals
- Improving access to safe financial products and stop predatory lending practices, especially in communities of color and amongst local students
- Educating policymakers on the importance of ensuring Bay Area residents have a guaranteed basic income and jobs with livable wages
- Advocating for local ordinances which reduce fee and fines for low-income Bay Area residents

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

UWBA will support efforts to promote workforce development and job training by:

- Supporting local programs that provide mentorship, apprenticeship, professional development, and education/training for youth, particularly youth of color
- Reducing barriers to access to careers for the formerly incarcerated, immigrant populations, and those facing financial hardships
- Increasing investments in community colleges to create pipelines to stable careers

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

UWBA will work as a central hub for the broader nonprofit community to:

- Ensure stronger and more equitable COVID-19 recovery response for low-income and communities of color
- Strengthen the capacity of public-nonprofit partnerships to support the collective work of bringing Bay Area residents out of poverty

GET INVOLVED

As the United Way Bay Area continues to be a strong voice to disrupt poverty in the Bay Area, we always need community partners and individuals to join us in the fight. We have a presence throughout the region, within the State legislature and even on Capitol Hill in Washington DC.

To learn more, visit uwba.org/advocate

To become an advocate with United Way Bay Area, email Ilaf Esuf at iesuf@uwba.org