UNITED to THRIVE

The five elements of a thriving community are interconnected areas of focus United Way of Central Iowa uses to create strategies and set goals to improve the lives of every person in our community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SUCCESS

Support maternal-child home visitation programs and their expansion to ensure a healthy start for children through prenatal and maternal health care.

Lead efforts to build investment in the childcare workforce to support quality, affordable childcare for all.

EDUCATION SUCCESS

Support the recommendations of the Task Force on Growing a Diverse K-12 Teacher Base to enhance career pathways for paraprofessionals to fill critical roles in the education system.

Support dual-language learners in opportunities to gain skills and earn employer-ready credentials for bilingual job skills.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Support quality job creation that provides the necessary training, education, and professional development to ensure workers are equipped to succeed in their work and career.

Support the recommendations of the Iowa Skills2Compete Coalition including:

Lead efforts to increase affordable access to quality childcare and promote stabilization in the childcare workforce.

Support efforts to expand equitable access to broadband across central Iowa.
Lead children’s mental health and well-being by leading the Coalition to Advance Mental Health in Iowa for Kids (CAMHI4KIDS).

Educate policymakers on the importance of overall oral health in partnership with the Oral Health Iowa coalition.

Lead the recommendations of the Well Kids of Central Iowa Coalition.

Support the recommendations of the Iowa ACEs 360 Coalition (Adverse Childhood Experiences).

Support efforts to expand engagement with the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training program (SNAP E&T).

Support the recommendations of the OpportUNITY Re-entry Taskforce:

- Support efforts to address identity theft among those entering incarceration through assistance in financial counseling and credit report freezes.

- Support local ordinances and agency rules that require landlords to demonstrate how tenant application fees are utilized to discourage misuse.

**HEALTH & WELL-BEING**

Lead children’s mental health and well-being by leading the Coalition to Advance Mental Health in Iowa for Kids (CAMHI4KIDS).

Educate policymakers on the importance of overall oral health in partnership with the Oral Health Iowa coalition.

Lead the recommendations of the Well Kids of Central Iowa Coalition.

Support the recommendations of the Iowa ACEs 360 Coalition (Adverse Childhood Experiences).

**ESSENTIAL NEEDS**

Lead efforts to begin state investment in the statewide 211 coalition for health and human services resource referral, disaster recovery, and a tool to address social determinants of health.

Support the efforts of the OpportUNITY Affordable Housing Workgroup to address affordable housing and reduce cost-burdens for families seeking homeownership.

Support a direct appropriation for the Double Up Food Bucks program allowing SNAP participants better access to healthy, nutritious fruits and vegetables.

Support efforts to increase SNAP access post-pandemic by bringing Iowa’s income eligibility more in line with federal guidelines.

Support sustainable funding for public transportation systems in the central Iowa region and statewide.