



United Way of
Huntington County, Inc.

UNITED WAY OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA 2017



EDUCATION



HEALTH



FINANCIAL STABILITY



enhancing the quality of life for all.



ISSUE: PRE-K Education

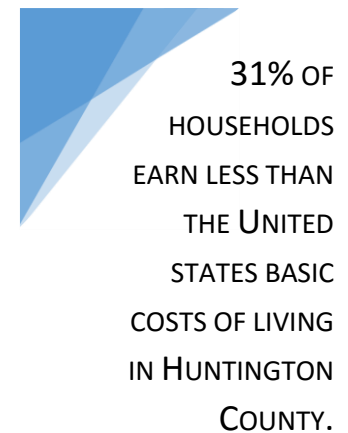
United Way of Huntington County recommends for a measured, targeted expansion of Pre-K programs in Indiana. Within this programming, United Way of Huntington County encourages philanthropic work to enhance Pre-K education, which plays a vital role in providing high quality care locally and statewide. Eligibility thresholds for services should be for low-income children up to 185% of the Federal Poverty level to help eliminate barriers to high cost, high quality child care in the state of Indiana. Studies show that for each dollar invested in PreK programs, there is a seven-to-ten-dollar return.

United Way of Huntington County created the Early Learning Alliance in Huntington County in 2016 as a way to study the availability of high-quality care in Huntington County. In order to create high quality care, which includes staffing high qualified, licensed providers, funding must be available for additional certifications, pay, or ways to offset enrollment costs in order to create Paths to Quality Level 3 and Level 4 programming across the state.



ISSUE: SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL SECURITY

In the 2016 ALICE (Access Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report, 31% of households earn less than basic cost of living in the country. While Huntington County falls beneath the state average in this area, the ability for families to plan for unexpected expenses continues to present challenges. Additionally, when low-wage workers earn just over the eligibility threshold for a subsidized program, they are often worse off than before. When workers move from subsidy program eligibility due to overtime hours or a 50-cent wage increase, additional financial burdens in areas of food, childcare or housing become an issue. United Way of Huntington County supports the examination of this effect known as the “Cliff Effect”.



2014 ALICE Report

ISSUE: HIGHLY-SKILLED WORKFORCE

With the implementation of the Huntington County Community Learning Center (LC) in 2016, the county has positioned itself to provide one-stop support in training, certification, continuing education, and job placement. Housing certificated programs for high school and adult workers, Work One, and Ivy Tech, the LC has created an opportunity for additional training for citizens and offering sustainable employment. United Way of Huntington County continues to advocate and support the work of training and placement in Indiana, as we know the long-term benefits of a highly skilled labor force.

IN 2016, 68 STUDENTS RECEIVED INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION THROUGH THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT HUNTINGTON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL. OVER 400 STUDENTS EARNED A TOTAL OF 2,613 COLLEGE DUAL CREDIT.

CTE Director Tiffanney Drummond



ISSUE: EDUCATED COMMUNITY WITH ACCESSIBILITY

While education is a strong and necessary component to making healthy decisions, taking that education and putting the education into action creates outcomes. The United Way of Huntington County serves as the fiscal agent and partner in the Huntington County Health & Wellness Coalition. In partnership with Parkview Huntington Hospital and other partners in the community, the importance of active living is a critical component to programming. Focusing on systemic changes in health, including access to quality healthcare services and opportunities to improve one’s quality of life, is crucial. Opportunities to support this type of work in the local community is a must for Huntington County residents.

COMPLETE WORK OF THE UNITED WAY OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY

Visit our web site for a comprehensive view of the priority areas for our local community:

<http://huntingtonunitedway.org/what-we-do/our-work/>