UWSELA PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
“UNITED FOR A SAFE & PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY”

KIM SPORT, Public Policy Chair

STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

United Way of Southeast Louisiana’s (UWSELA) Blueprint for Prosperity advances our mission to eradicate poverty and assist ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE represents the growing number of hardworking individuals and families across Louisiana who are working but unable to afford the basic household necessities, including housing, child care, health care, food, and transportation.

UWSELA Public Policy Committee’s 2020 Legislative topics serve to advance our Blueprint for Prosperity and moving forward, we will continue, as in the past, our advocacy for all issues which complement the mission and goals of UWSELA to ALICE. We will continue to work closely with individuals, organizations and coalitions who bring years of their own passion and expertise to the table.

The 2020 Regular Legislative Session was scheduled to convene March 9 with final adjournment no later than 6pm on June 1. Louisiana legislative leaders agreed to suspend their lawmaking session until May 4 due to COVID-19. UWSELA Public Policy Committee and Board of Trustees will continue to be informed of all developments in legislation.

EDUCATION

We must provide opportunities for ALL families to have access to the quality child care and after school programs needed to enrich their children while parents remain a productive part of Louisiana’s workforce.

We must provide ALL of our children with the education and services they need for a bright and fulfilling future.

- Increase Investment in Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Ensure Adequate and Equitable Funding for K-12 Schools and Higher Education

FINANCIAL STABILITY

We must continue to invest state funds in the evidenced-based programs that net the largest return of federal dollars so that the state can keep more of the dollars paid by Louisiana citizens.

We must invest in Louisiana’s working families to ensure financial stability so that no Louisiana family is forced to be ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).

- Support an Increase in the Minimum Wage
- Focus on Economic Development Strategies
- Family Economic Stability
- Earned Income Tax Credit (Support continued funding for EITC)
HEALTH
We must continue to protect Medicaid for Louisiana families and begin to focus on health outcomes for children by increasing health, safety, and developmental screenings for EVERY Louisiana child.

We must expand home visiting, parent education programs, and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECHM) programs to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and improve early child well-being for ALL Louisiana families.

We must continue to fund services to families of children with developmental disabilities and ensure that EVERY child has the opportunity to grow and thrive in the environment that is best for them and their family.

- Physical Health and Development
- Social Emotional Development
- Development Disabilities
- Paid Family Medical Leave
- Fix Statutes of Domestic Violence Laws
- Medicaid Work Requirements *(Monitor legislation in collaboration with our partners)*

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING
We must protect the well-being of ALL Louisianans and eliminate the barriers that keep too many of us from opportunity.

We must continue to fund services to invest in the juvenile system by improving the rehabilitative services provided to youth offenders and give them a greater opportunity to remake their lives.

We must continue funding to protect children, support struggling families, and ensure additional state funding is available to implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.

We must invest in Equity, end discrimination and inequities in our state so that we ALL prosper together.

- Sustain and Expand Criminal Justice Reform
- Protect Safety Net Programs
- Promote Economic Security
- Increase Funding for the Louisiana Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative *(LAPRI)*
- Support Gun Violence Prevention *(Partner with City of New Orleans and Jewish Federation of New Orleans to increase protections for faith based houses of worship and also engage hospitals.)*
- Human Trafficking *(Continue to monitor anything that comes under this issue)*
- Louisiana’s Foster *(Maintain current state funding)*

*Approved by UWSELA Public Policy Committee – February 19, 2020*
*Approved by UWSELA Board of Trustees – March 25, 2020*