

# PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL 2021



THANK YOU to our corporate partners, individual donors, and volunteers for helping us successfully close out our campaign | Announced the final numbers for our 2020-21 campaign | **We not only met our goal but exceeded by 1.6 million dollars!**

Opened the [Northshore Prosperity Center](#) on April 8 to clients and continued promotion of its services via social media | The Center will offer 11 services to clients, including financial education and coaching, credit building, workforce development, VITA, and match savings programs

Met with Louisiana United Ways to discuss preliminary planning of the next [ALICE Report](#) launch in 2022, which will feature 2020 data | We confirmed our ongoing financial commitment to and partnership with LAUW to bring the report to Louisiana

Continued negotiations with the Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections on the St. Tammany Louisiana Prisoner Reentry contract | Debuted the [Jefferson Parish Louisiana Prisoner Reentry initiative promotional video](#) with support for Jefferson Parish Government and officials

Hosted a webinar on understanding the third stimulus package as a part of the Know Your Rights with the Louisiana Hospitality Foundation and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services | During this webinar, attorneys from Southeast Louisiana Legal Services explained the third stimulus package impact on households

Worked to finalize plans for the GNO, Inc. Workforce Development Partnership Phase I summary and action plan to bring programming to partners | Will survey UWSELA partners and host roundtable discussions to ensure awareness of partners in the region that provide services for clients to access training and education (scholarships, wrap-around services, tuition assistance, etc.)

Ron McClain, Chairman of UWSELA Public Policy Committee, served as Legislation Keynote for Women United's Women's Organization Coalition meeting to present our approved 2021 UWSELA State Legislative Agenda, "United for a Safe & Prosperous Community"

Hosted U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy as a guest lecturer for the Nancy M. Marsiglia Institute of Justice to discuss current affairs, issues, and his thoughts on how we might reclaim civil discourse in America

Reviewed legislative bills being filed for this session and discussed a partnership with the Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) to collaborate on shared advocacy efforts on issues facing Louisiana women, including the elimination of the "pink tax"

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Marked the beginning of the 2021 Louisiana Legislative Session on Monday, April 12 | Charmaine Caccioppi attended the Louisiana Legislative Session in support of the following legislation, which passed out of Committee:

- HB 55 authored by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman - <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1201834>  
DOMESTIC ABUSE: Provides relative to protective orders | This bill authorizes use of a written affirmation to support a petition for an ex parte temporary restraining order in domestic abuse cases
- HB 125 authored by Rep. Mike Johnson - <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1213684>  
CHILDREN/SUPPORT: This bill requires the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to be named as an indispensable party in actions involving paternity and requires certification of the receipt of support enforcement services in certain actions
- HB 159 authored by Rep. Malinda White - <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1213696>  
DOMESTIC ABUSE: Provides for the definition of domestic abuse
- HB 601 authored by Rep. Jonathan Goudeau passed out of House Transportation, Highways & Public Works - <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1212168>  
MOTOR VEHICLE/LICENSE PLATES: Creates the Pelicans specialty license plates | Monies received from this license plate's royalty fees will be equally shared between the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund and the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund
- S.B. 72 authored by Sen. Troy Carter passed out of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee. <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1206177>  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT: This bill creates the office on women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health
- H.B. 12 authored by Rep. Malinda B. White  
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1199268>  
TAX/INCOME TAX: Creates an individual income tax checkoff for the Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response. Passed House Ways and Means unanimously with amendment that allows you to donate check off 2021!!
- HB 199 authored by Rep Clay Schexnayder  
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1213695>  
TAX/SALES & USE: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides for the State and Local Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Commission. Pending House Final passage.
- S.B. 72 authored by Sen. Troy Carter  
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1206177>  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Creates the office on women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health.

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- SB 132 authored by Sen. Joseph Bouie  
<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1215674>  
DNA: Provides relative to analysis of the DNA sample collected following an arrest for certain offenses.
- SB 143 authored by Sen. Patrick McMath  
<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1210460>  
CHILDREN: Provides relative to permanent placement of children in custody of the state. (gov sig)
- SB 145 authored by Sen. Rick Ward, III  
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1210465>  
COURTS: Provides relative to mandatory drug testing, screening, and assessment for drug and specialty court participation for certain offenders. (See Act) (OR SEE FISC NOTE SD EX)
- SB 148 authored by Sen. Patrick Page Cortez  
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1210737>  
COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Establishes the M.J. Foster Promise Program. (gov sig)
- H.B. 7 <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=21RS&b=HB7&sbi=y> authored by Rep. Aimee Adatto that exempts feminine hygiene products and diapers from state sales taxes is scheduled to be heard in House Ways and Means on Monday, May 3.
- HB 216 <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=21RS&b=HB216&sbi=y> authored by Rep. Royce Duplessis requires early literacy professional development for certain teachers, passed Senate Education Committee today.
- H.B. 55 <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1215111> authored by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman is scheduled to be heard on the House Floor today for final passage. This bill removes the notarization requirement on temporary restraining order petitions when the petitioner is seeking relief from domestic abuse, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking.
- HB 324 <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=21RS&b=HB324&sbi=y> authored by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty that prohibits corporal punishment in public elementary and secondary schools, successfully passed.
- SB 104 <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=21RS&b=SB104&sbi=y> authored by Sen. Michael "Big Mike" Fesi that targets trans young people's access to gender-affirming care was defeated in Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.
- SB 133 <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=21RS&b=SB133&sbi=y> authored by Sen. Regina provides for prioritization of Health equity by LDH was approved in Senate Health & Welfare.

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- SB 143 <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=21RS&b=SB143&sbi=y> authored by Sen. Patrick McMath, provides relative to permanent placement of children in custody of the state, unanimously passed the Senate Floor.
- SB 150 authored <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=21RS&b=SB150&sbi=y> by Sen. Regina Barrow, Requires the Office of Group Benefits to cover bariatric surgery techniques for the treatment of severe obesity, passed in Senate Health & Welfare.
- SB 170 <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=21RS&b=SB170&sbi=y> authored by Ronnie Johns, provides relative to the creation of the office of human trafficking prevention, passed unanimously on Senate Floor.
- SB 222 <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1212318> authored by Sen. Sharon Hewitt provides relative to early literacy passed in Senate Education Committee.

Distributed the following Action Alerts:

- Action Alert: Office on Women's Health & License Plate Funds for ECE
- Action Alert: HB 1 | Early Care & Education Funding & Action Alert: HB 100 | Partial Partitions of Community Property: <https://conta.cc/3dwjo4D>
- Action Alert: Kindergarten Attendance, Minimum Wage, and Hairstyle Discrimination Bills Being Heard TODAY: <https://conta.cc/2Rlb5u3>
- Action Alert: Tax Credits, Period & Diaper Product Sales Tax Exemption, Office on Human Trafficking - <https://conta.cc/3azimml>
- Action Alert: Help Domestic Violence Survivors Stay Safe - <https://conta.cc/2S7dcYL>

Began planning for the 2020-21 UWSELA Annual Meeting, scheduled for June 23 | Staff is evaluating in-person, virtual, and hybrid options for hosting attendees | Nominations are currently underway for all LIVE UNITED Award categories

Confirmed UWSELA's support of [STAR](#) (Strategies for Trauma Awareness & Resilience---a nonprofit to support victims of sexual trauma) addressing increased investment in sexual assault at College campuses | Helped to coordinate STAR's earned media outreach announcing a \$300,000 public challenge grant to scale services | Charmaine Caccioppi joined former state Senator JP Morrell and Winifred Reilly in a virtual press conference hosted by Racheal Hebert, STAR President and CEO, to announce the grant | [Watch the recording of the press conference here](#)

Hosted Advocacy 101: Make Your Voice Heard, A Conversation with Julie Stokes with our engagements groups | The Q&A with Julie Stokes - a self-described recovering State Legislator, the Founder of Ellevote Louisiana, and Co-Founder of the Cancer Advocacy Group of Louisiana - explored the importance of advocacy and practical ways to get involved with driving change through public policy | [View the recording here](#)

Developed the virtual Ready Louisiana Coalition Early Ed Day toolkit to help coalition members engage with elected officials during our lobby visit on May 18, 2021 | UWSELA and Women United will once again help to host a press conference in Gov. Edwards' press room with statewide ECE advocates and business leaders

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Hosted the next session in our Louisiana Leaders webinar series, Understanding the Racial Wealth Gap, which highlighted factors that contribute to the racial wealth gap and solutions to close it | We are grateful to Mary Ambrose for expertly moderating the session and Charmaine Caccioppi and all our panelists for sharing their lived experiences, knowledge, and expertise related to the racial wealth gap in Southeast Louisiana | A recording of the webinar is available [here](#), and the presentation deck is available [here](#)

Charmaine Caccioppi, Julie Schwam Harris, and Amanda Brunson, members of Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission, participated in a webinar hosted by the Junior League of New Orleans highlighting issues facing Louisiana women and families in Louisiana

Worked with Loyola College of Law Dean Landrieu to host the Nancy M. Marsiglia Institute of Justice graduation and in-person Alumni event with a high-level presentation by a keynote speaker to address relevant Public Policy issues

Participated in First Lady Donna Edwards' webinar announcing Louisiana's statewide Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign | The inaugural campaign will address our unified messaging concerning Human Sex Trafficking and culminate with an event during the NCAA March Madness Tournament in New Orleans in 2022

Charmaine Caccioppi participated in a discussion with the **Louisiana Department of Education** for the development of a **Child Care and Development Fund** (CCDF) state plan

Charmaine Caccioppi and several legislators who are sponsoring and supporting Strong Families Tax Credit, an effort to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and create a new tax credit for children, participated in Louisiana Budget Project's Tax Credits Webinar on April 22 to talk about important tax credit bills that will have their first hearings in the Louisiana Legislature

Confirmed CIO Mary Ambrose's participation in United Way Worldwide's Advancing Equitable Change webinar series | The Data Center's Lamar Gardere will join Mary for the discussion

Leveraging Data to Advance Equity | Wed., May 12, 1 p.m.

The use of data, especially community-level aggregated information, is a core part of United Way's overall approach to developing impact goals, strategies, and programs to improve outcomes in education, economic mobility, and health. This webinar will focus on how United Ways can use disaggregated data, to better understand issues, advance narratives that focus on the systemic causes of current disparities, and to inform solutions.

Planned for the reopening of UWSELA's Rental and Mortgage Assistance Fund, which provides one-time grant funding to individuals in our seven-parish service area (initial opening only served Orleans Parish through BET funding) | The fund's reopening was made possible by MacKenzie Scott's \$10 million contribution | Additional Scott funding initiatives will be announced as a part of the fund reopening

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Marked National Volunteer Week on social media and in our weekly newsletter by highlighting dedicated volunteers nominated by UWSELA staff

Called for stakeholders to LIVE UNITED on GiveNOLA Day! | Please consider making a little extra gift to [United Way of Southeast Louisiana](#) to help us build opportunities for everyone in Southeast Louisiana to be healthy, educated, and financially stable

[Launched the fourth phase of United for Early Care and Education](#) | Applications are open through Friday, May 14 | We will target support to centers looking for the next round of PPP (we can have up to 70 participants) | We will continue servicing existing applicants through the end of June

Opened [the first local Spanish and Vietnamese COVID-19 hotlines](#), serving underserved populations in the Greater New Orleans region and providing education on how, where, and when residents can get COVID-19 vaccines | The hotlines, in partnership with 504HealthNet, will be available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. | We will begin public promotion of the hotlines the first week of May

- Spanish: 504.308.0292
- Vietnamese: 504.321.1266

Completed the third in a series of three webinars titled *"In Your Own Backyard: How to Access Training and Education for Your Clients"* as a part of our partnership with GNO, Inc. | We structured these webinars to meet our goal to engage community partners, and to inform, educate and share research and training opportunities with our UWSELA funded agencies, specifically around enhancing the digital and technical skills needed among low-wage and ALICE workers | Presenters for each webinar included representatives from the Louisiana Technical College System, local workforce development boards and local NGO organizations who offered skilled training opportunities | Each webinar included presentations on current job trends, job and employment training opportunities, and supportive services and funding assistance available

Hosted the Nancy M. Marsiglia Institute of Justice virtual 2021 spring graduation ceremony, our fifth graduating class consisting of 30 students | Dean Madeleine Landrieu served as the keynote with judges are Eldon Fallon, Stephen Edmonson, and Tiffany Chase

Joined with the Jefferson Chamber Young Professionals group to host a Dog Park Social for young leaders at Pontiff Park

Charmaine Caccioppi participated in Elevate LA Day at the Capitol, which included a luncheon with Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser and many legislators | We had the opportunity to discuss high-quality early care and education and personally met with Gov. Edwards and his legislative staff to reinforce our commitment to ECE

Distributed information to Community Partners on the Louisiana Department of Health's new State Health Assessment dashboard, which provides information about the health of Louisianans and shows where inequities exist with regard to health outcomes and the determinants of health | We're encouraging individuals and communities across the state to utilize this data, along with the ALICE® Report, to advocate and plan for positive changes in their communities and statewide | [View the dashboard here](#)