

PROGRESS REPORT

May 2021



Promoted the openings of the first local [Spanish and Vietnamese COVID-19 hotlines](#), assisting 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.

- Spanish: 504.308.0292
- Vietnamese: 504.321.1266

Hosted two free COVID-19 vaccination events in partnership with 504HealthNet in an effort to reach underserved Latino and Vietnamese population:

Vaccine Event 1
May 21, 2021 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(Moderna ages 18+)

Vaccine Event 2
May 21, 2021 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
(Pfizer ages 12+ or Johnson & Johnson ages 18+)

Giving Hope
13040 I-10 Service Rd,
New Orleans, LA 70128
Vietnamese translation available

Big Easy Fresh Market
2669 Canal St, New Orleans, LA 70119
Spanish translation available

Announced the reopening of our Rental and Mortgage Assistance Fund and Individual Development Account Project (IDA) | The reopenings were made possible by MacKenzie Scott's \$10 million contribution to UWSELA, the largest gift in our 96-year history | Find more information and eligibility requirements [here](#)

Joined NOLA Public Schools and HandsOn to promote our partnership to provide free home-delivery service of school meals through a UWSELA grant to participate in Ride United's Last Mile Delivery Program using DoorDash | The program includes school meal delivery on Mondays and Wednesdays directly to the homes of students in virtual learning | The partnership will serve 500 meals weekly to the homes of 50 families

Completed the development of a SNAP Employment and Training contract application process for the state to review and implement | Included a comprehensive application, process for application review and approvals, definition pages, timeline for applying, introduction letters, and scoring rubric | We're working on capacity building for sub-contractors to complete FY 22 budgets and statements of work to be included in next year's SNAP E&T Plan | Additionally, we're working with the state in their development of new financial reimbursement programs

Joined peers in signing on the Coalition LA PWFA letter to reaffirm Louisiana's commitment to promoting healthy mothers and babies, streamlining guidance for businesses, and strengthening economic growth by supporting [SB 215](#), the Louisiana pregnancy accommodations act, authored by Senator Regina Barrow

Charmaine Caccioppi attended Children's Day at the Capitol on May 4 | The event highlighted significant efforts being done on behalf of Louisiana's Children.

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Participated in the Governor's Office on Women's Policy rally on May 6 in which Governor John Bel Edwards energized our advocates in support of legislative bills including equal pay:

- [HB 245](#) by Rep. Carpenter provides for pay transparency in the workplace and prohibits inquiring about salary history in offers of employment | This bill will help to narrow the gender wage gap and is good for all workers and businesses
 - Provided testimony in House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations in support of [HB 245](#) and the bill was reported favorably out of committee
- [HB 439](#) by Rep. Newell prohibits pre-dispute arbitration agreements for sexual harassment
- [SB 215](#) by Sen. Barrow would provide for reasonable workplace accommodations for pregnant and postpartum workers, unless it would create a hardship for the business

Mary Ambrose participated in United Way Worldwide's Advancing Equitable Change webinar series with The Data Center's Lamar Gardere | The webinar focused 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

Attended the Governor's Westbank Luncheon | Gov. John Bel Edwards addressed several topics affecting the state and the region, mentioning his recent visit to the U.S. Senate to testify in favor of oil leasing in the Gulf of Mexico, which is vital to Louisiana | Attendees included our Public Policy Chairman, Ron McClain; Dr. Sarintha Stricklin, Jefferson Early Childhood Network; Charmaine Caccioppi, Pam Allison, Peggy Bourgeois, and Caryl Fagot

Announced the hiring of Twanda Lewis as our director of the Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative | the LAPRI team also finalized the contract with Loyola University New Orleans College of Law's Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice to provide 30 LAPRI participants with legal prison in-reach, case management, and legal service

Finalized a contract with Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center For Social Justice to provide legal services in all Jefferson Parish Courts through [LA-PRI](#)

Continued VITA assistance through the J. Wayne Leonard Prosperity with the new, extended tax deadline for Louisiana residents

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Marked the halfway point of the 2021 legislative session | Below is an update on some of the bills we are tracking based on our 2021 State Legislative Agenda, "United for A Safe and Prosperous Community"

Higher Education and Workforce

[SB 148](#) by Sen. Page Cortez – Establishes the MJ Foster Promise Program, which creates scholarships of up to \$3,200 per year for students enrolled at a two-year institution pursuing a degree or credential in a high-demand, high wage occupation that is part of the state's workforce priorities.

Title IX - There are several bills related to Title IX reporting moving through the system, including [HB 409](#), [SB 230](#), and [HB 394](#). (HB 394 is pending Senate final passage)

Early Childhood Education

[HB 391](#) by Rep. Tanner Magee – Authorizes the recommendation of medical marijuana in raw or crude form and limits the dispensing of such product. Pending Legislative Bureau.

[HB 514](#) by Rep. Tanner Magee – Levies a state tax on raw or crude marijuana recommended for therapeutic use and provides for the disposition of the collections of the tax. This bill commits 1/4 of its revenues to Early Education, 1/2 to infrastructure and 1/4 to public defenders. Pending Senate

[SB 202](#) (became [SB 247](#)) by Sen. Page Cortez- Provides relative to the regulation of sports wagering. Last year, 55 out of 64 parishes have voted to approve sports wagering. An amendment was put forth in Senate Judiciary B to set forth the rules and regulations. It was temporarily deferred in Senate Judiciary B to get feedback from stakeholders. Substitute adopted on the Senate floor and became SB 247.

[HB 697](#) (formerly [HB 628](#)) by Rep. John Stefanski- Authorizes the Louisiana Lottery Corporation to conduct sports wagering and levies a tax on sports wagering. Reported by Ways and Means, recommitted and discharged from Appropriations and passed the House with 12 pages of amendments now pending Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs.

[SB 142](#) by Sen. Rick Ward- To provide for the disposition of funds generated by sports wagering.

Ready Louisiana is calling for an amendment to the bill to commit sports betting funds to early care and education.

Subject to call Senate final passage.

Financial Stability

[HB 245](#) by Rep. Carpenter provides relative to employment practices related to wage history, wage disclosure, and retaliation. Subject to call – House final passage.

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Current Status: Subject to call - House final passage

[HCR 77](#) by Rep. Carpenter creates a task force to study minimum wage, passed out of House Labor and Industrial Relations Committee.

Healthcare

[HB 270](#) by Rep. Tanner Magee- Revises the definitions of the terms "telemedicine" and "telehealth" and exempts certain activity from laws pertaining to the practice of medicine. Pending Legislative Bureau.

[HB 1 \(Behavioral Health Funding\)](#) - The behavioral health funding that we have been following that was included in HB 1 is still in the bill. The full House debated HB 1 last week, and hearings begin in Senate Finance committee this week.

[SB 137](#) & [SR 23](#) by Sen. Kirk Talbot- SB 137, the bill to enable more long term care to be provided in a home setting, was stalled and was turned into a study resolution, SR 23, which creates a task force to study and report on Medicaid managed care for individuals receiving long-term supports and services.

Tax Reform: Eliminate the Federal Income Tax Deduction

[HB 278](#) by Rep. Stuart Bishop- Eliminates Federal income tax deduction and eliminates most excess itemized deductions in exchange for lower rates. (2% to 1.85%; 4% to 3.51%; 6% to 4.25%). Reported with amendments from Ways and Means. Subject to call for House final passage.

[HB 376](#) by Rep. Barry Ivey - Eliminates Federal income tax deduction and eliminates most excess itemized deductions in exchange for a flat 4.25% tax. Contains other provisions. Reported with amendments. Subject to call for House final passage.

[HB 171](#) by Rep. Jerome Zeringue - Eliminates Federal income tax deduction and eliminates most excess itemized deductions in exchange for a 4% flat rate. Contains other provisions. Reported with amendments from Ways and Means. Subject to call for House final passage.

[HB 292](#) & [293](#) by Rep. Neil Riser – Would eliminate deductibility of federal income taxes on corporate returns in exchange for lowering the rate to a flat 6.5% (from the current top rate of 8%). The bill originally proposed a 6% flat rate but was bumped up to 6.5% to reduce the cost and move towards revenue neutrality. Both bills are pending Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Tax Reform: Centralized Sales Tax Collection

[HB 199](#) by Rep. Clay Schexnayder - A constitutional amendment that will streamline filings, remittance, and audits of sales and use taxes under a new statewide political subdivision, the State and Local Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Commission. This bill is pending House Concurrence.

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Infrastructure

[SB 1](#) by Sen. Barrow Peacock- Phases sales tax towards TTF. Subject to call – Senate final passage.

[HB 615](#) & **[693](#)** are running as a package. Both require a 2/3 vote. Subject to call – House final passage.

[HB 615](#) by Rep. Barbara Freiberg –would implement a new annual fee on electric (\$400) and hybrid (\$275) vehicles, with the proceeds directed toward the Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund. Subject to call - House final passage.

[HB 693](#) by Rep. Paula Davis – gradually dedicate Louisiana's 0.45 cent sales tax, passed by the Legislature in 2018, to infrastructure. This legislation also extends the tax beyond its current expiration date of 2025, levying it at a rate of 0.40 cents until 2031. Subject to call – House final passage.

[HB 511](#) by Rep. Jack McFarland – funds road and bridge construction by phasing in the use of vehicle sales tax revenue and implements certain transparency components. Passed Appropriations with amendments (17-0). Passed the House (70-28). Pending Senate Finance

Distributed the following ACTION ALERTS:

- Action Alert: Action Alert: Help Advance the Diaper & Feminine Hygiene Product Sales Tax Exemption - <https://conta.cc/3gXyKl3>
- Action Alert on Pay Transparency + Other Bills - <https://conta.cc/2QV6V21>
- Action Alert: Help Protect Louisiana's Criminal Justice Reform - <https://conta.cc/3o5hcVD>
- Action Alert: Keep it Going! Diaper & Feminine Hygiene Product Sales Tax Exemption - <https://conta.cc/3o0SXHX>
- Action Alert: Louisiana Workers Need Pay Transparency - <https://conta.cc/3tE6t5v>
- Action Alert - HB 7 - House Floor -2 – <https://conta.cc/3bFqa6W>
- Action Alert: Help Domestic Abuse Survivors Get EARLY Protection - <https://conta.cc/3hv9rqv>
- Action Alert: Pay Transparency Bill Up for Final House Passage - <https://conta.cc/3wCiRFd>

Rescheduled Early Ed Day at the Capital for on June 2 as an opportunity to educate our state's elected officials about local investments in early care and education (ECE) and share opportunities to increase the state's ECE investment during the 2021 legislative session | Watch a livestream of the Early Ed Day program beginning at noon on [our Facebook page here](#)

Mobilized advocates in support of Rep. Malinda White's HB 159 that expands the definition of domestic abuse to include non-physical, emotional abuse used to prevent a victim from escaping a relationship or contacting law enforcement

Rep. Malinda White; former Sen. JP Morrell; Kim Sport, the first and former chairman of the Louisiana Commission to Prevent Domestic Violence; and Prof. Andrea Carroll and joined the Newell Normand Radio Show to talk about Rep. White's HB 159 and how it defines domestic abuse | Listen to the segment [here](#)

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Announced the [Nancy Marsiglia Institute of Justice spring 2021 the graduating class](#) | Thanks to everyone who attended our ceremony and congratulations to our Distinguished Fellows 2021 spring class:

- Patricia Barnett, Barnett Fine Art
- Ashley Brennan, Bernhard
- Elizabeth Bridges, Benjamin and Yancy Foundation
- Alison Cohen, Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman, Louisiana Legislature
- Jillian Delos Reyes, United Way of Southeast Louisiana
- Lindsey Jakiel Diulus, Young Leadership Council
- Klassi Duncan, Urban League of Louisiana
- Michelle Dunnick, United Way of Southeast Louisiana
- Sylvia Finger, Self-Employed
- Melissa Flournoy, Social Entrepreneur
- Caitrin Gladow, Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans
- Danielle Gray, Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School
- David Hoover, University of New Orleans
- Maria Huete, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Lorenzo Johnson, Jr., KNOS
- Nygia Lambert, Self-Employed
- Tiffany Lewis, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center
- Ann Maier, Community Organizer
- Alli Maney, New Orleans Public Schools
- Meaghan McCormack, St. Bernard Economic Development Foundation
- Jesse Miller, Ochsner Health
- KD Minor, Community Organizer
- Lucas Mixon, Delta Airlines
- Paulina Murphy, Choices Coordinated Care Solutions
- Scott Peyton, Right on Crime
- Lavaughn Riley, Premium Parking at Children's Hospital
- Seleigh Taylor, KIPP New Orleans
- Rashidah Williams, Tulane University
- Felicia Young, Higher Minds of Education, LLC
- Tania Zachari, Techniques International Corp.

Joined with International Paper employees to host their Day of Action at the YMCA of Bogalusa with support of the United Way HandsOn Entergy Volunteer Center | The event marks our ongoing efforts to increase both UWSELA's and IP's presence in Washington Parish

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Extended the application deadline for the United for Early Care and Education program, in partnership with Loyola University New Orleans College of Law | This program provides support for Second Draw Paycheck Protection Program (PPP2) loans to early childhood education center directors | Please encourage any providers you may know to [learn more here](#)

Began promotions for our 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting registration | Join us on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. as we examine our long-term recovery efforts, look at opportunities on the horizon, celebrate our 2020-2021 Live United Award Recipients, and pass the gavel from current Board of Trustees Chair Cathy McRae to Tod Smith | **Register online** [here](#) to receive the virtual watch link

Announced the switch of prescription savings partners from FamilyWize to SingleCare, which will continue to help community members afford prescription medications | Individuals can save up to 80% on medications through a free and easy-to-use prescription savings card | [Learn more here](#)

Finalized plans for our 2021 United Way Days of Action | Join the United Way HandsOn Entergy Volunteer Center for two family-friendly Days of Action in June | Volunteers will complete landscaping and painting projects | Children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult

- Saturday, June 12 - Southshore
- Saturday, June 19 – Northshore

Prepared for our 2021 Board of Trustees retreat, to be facilitated by UWSELA staff with support from Trepwise | We look forward to hosting our trustees for a day filled with learning, discovery, and fellowship

Received board approval for funding for the 2021-2022 Program grants and internal initiatives for the last year of our three-year funding commitment

Filmed interviews for our 2021-22 campaign video, including IDA/VITA clients, a Hospitality Cares grant recipient, a United for Early Care and Education program participant, and our incoming board chair | The video will debut at our Annual Meeting on June 23.