

2025 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

United for a Safe and Prosperous Community



The 2025 Regular Legislative Session will convene at noon on Monday, April 14, 2025. Final Adjournment is scheduled for no later than 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

- [2025 Regular Session Information Bulletin](#)
- [2025 Session Restricted Subject Matter](#)

United Way of Southeast Louisiana's 2025 public policy priorities will continue to advance our efforts to eradicate poverty in Southeast Louisiana through the [Blueprint for Prosperity](#) and support [ALICE](#) (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households. ALICE represents the growing number of hardworking individuals and families across our state who are employed but unable to afford the cost of living in their parish (including housing, childcare, healthcare, food, and transportation). According to United for ALICE data, half of households in our state are living in poverty or struggling to make ends meet.

Our Community Impact team received input from UWSELA-funded agencies on public policy issues impacting our region. [View the results.](#)

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

UWSELA Public Policy committee meets each year before the start of the session to prepare our annual policy priorities. We held two educational sessions this year to help engage our collaborative partners and funders, which included subject matter experts to assist us in creating robust priorities.

View a recording of UWSELA Public Policy Educational Sessions:

- [Session #1: Education & Health](#)
- [Session #2: Financial Stability & Community Strengthening](#)

Approved by UWSELA Public Policy Committee – March 21, 2025

Approved by UWSELA Board of Trustees – March 26, 2025

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COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

Prioritizing governmental actions that ensure opportunity for all individuals and families, especially those living under the ALICE Threshold, and foster stronger more resilient communities, including access to affordable housing, protection from insurance exploitation, prevention of discriminatory and exclusionary practices, and support for domestic violence protections, programs, and awareness-building efforts.

- Continued investment in UWSELA's Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative (LA-PRI)
- Affordable housing
- Affordable insurance options
- Gun violence prevention
- Provide comprehensive resources for victim safety (\$7M)
- Ensure survivor access to justice
- Prevent domestic violence homicides
- Promote economic stability for survivors
- Promote safe environments

FINANCIAL SECURITY

Prioritizing increased governmental support for evidence-based programs and policies that foster economic stability and financial empowerment for all, including workforce development, emergency assistance, and the establishment of a living wage.

- Workforce Development
- SNAP Employment and Training
- Sustain Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) state match
- Living wage increase
- Monitor all tax policy bills
- Eliminate predatory lending (Monitor legislation that may hinder positions we have taken in the past that will further negatively impact our ALICE community)

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HEALTH

Prioritizing governmental action to ensure that all Louisianans have access to health services that protect and improve mental and physical well-being, including trauma-informed care, mental health services, paid family leave, Medicaid, maternal child health, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

- Trauma-informed care/ACEs
- Mental health services
- Maternal child health
- Medicaid
- Paid family leave
- Human trafficking
- Sexual assault
- Increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for providers
- Increased state taxation on tobacco and nicotine products
- Increased access to evidence-based post-partum home visiting programs
- Protect access to evidence-based public health interventions including vaccines and fluoride in public water systems
- Continued investment in Whole Health Louisiana Initiative

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YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

United Way of Southeast Louisiana kicked off 2025 Early Ed Month (EEM) at Royal Castle Child Development Center in Orleans Parish. EEM is a statewide initiative to highlight the urgent need for increased investment in high-quality early childhood education. The effort aims to inform policymakers, business leaders, parents, and advocates about early education's critical role in strengthening Louisiana's workforce, economy, and future.

We're prioritizing governmental action in the wide range of supports necessary for young people to achieve their full potential, including increased investment in early childhood care and education, K-12 educational policies that enhance literacy in reading and math, and investment in educational professionals to enhance student achievement and well-being.

- **Early Childhood Care & Education (ECE) (Ages 0-3)**

- Ensure the maintenance of \$103.4 million in total funding for state pre-K programs for four-year-olds, including LA4 and Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD), between state and federal TANF funding sources to maintain seats for approximately 17,700 children. Furthermore, should the constitutional amendment eliminating 8(g) funds and the Education Excellence Fund pass, appropriate an additional \$10 million to the LA4 program so that nearly 2,000 more children will not lose their ECE seats.
- Invest at least \$87.8 million in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to provide working families across the state with access to affordable ECE programs, as recommended by the bipartisan 2024 Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Commission. Investing at FY24 amounts would allow for the reinstatement of at least 720 ECE seats.
- Appropriate at least \$30 million to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund, which provides a dollar-for-dollar match to local investments in ECE to specifically expand access birth to 3-year-olds, especially those living under the ALICE Threshold, and foster stronger more resilient communities. Securing a full state match would ensure the continuation of more than 2,000 ECE seats across the state.
- Increase investment in ages 4-Pre-K, K-12 schools, and higher education
- Increase investment for literacy-rich programming as championed by UWSELA's New Orleans Campaign for Grade-Level Reading