

ADVOCACY: Children's Health Coverage

Access To Quality Care

Children experience healthier development and miss less days of school when they can visit the doctor when needed.

TO GET INVOLVED OR LEARN MORE

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Vision

All children have health insurance and access to the quality care they need to stay healthy and in school

Problem

More than 18,000 Santa Clara County children*, and almost 1 million children in California lack insurance and access to ongoing, preventive health care. Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and Santa Clara County's Healthy Kids, which together insure more than 100,000 local children*, are in jeopardy because of California's budget crisis.

Advocacy Actions

United Way Silicon Valley joins together with United Ways of California and other local partners to ensure that children have access to health care by advocating for:

- › Preservation and expansion of children's health programs (i.e., Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Santa Clara County's Healthy Kids)
- › Policies that maintain and increase the number of children who have insurance, and improve the quality of health coverage



Benefit to the Community

Here's how all residents benefit when children have health insurance and receive preventative care:

- › CHILDREN: Experience healthy development when they receive the care they need
- › TAX PAYERS: Benefit as tax dollars are more efficiently spent when kids receive preventative care through their insurance instead of through costly emergency room visits
- › COMMUNITIES: Reduce their risk of widespread illness
- › LOCAL / STATE ECONOMIES: Benefit from an influx of money as a result of the federal government's 1:1 or 2:1 funding match (depending on program) for state children's health insurance

* 2007 California Health Interview Survey



ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

Advocacy is one strategy United Way uses to advance its goals. United Way also changes community conditions by:

- › Delivering United Way Silicon Valley programs
- › Investing strategically in agency-run programs
- › Leading and partnering in coalitions
- › Mobilizing volunteers

Why United Way Silicon Valley Advocates

Money alone cannot solve Silicon Valley's most pressing community needs. Public policy can be a significant catalyst for change and that is why advocacy is one strategy that United Way Silicon Valley employs in its ongoing efforts to improve the lives of local people. United Way's advocacy work is focused on **improving the systems that shape community conditions** to help individuals and families achieve financial stability and independence.



How United Way Silicon Valley Advocates

United Way is non-partisan in its advocacy and knows that systemic change requires partnership among non-profit organizations, government, business, labor, faith-based groups, and community members.

Working in partnership, United Way Silicon Valley takes the following approach in using public policy advocacy to advance the common good:

- › Educate community members on the policy issues
- › Connect advocates with elected officials and media outlets to champion causes
- › Engage policymakers in solutions that meet community needs



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