

TRIDENT UNITED WAY PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

Approved by the Board of Directors December 14, 2016



Trident United Way (TUW) endeavors to become a nonprofit policy leader as one way of supporting measurable community change. TUW remains non-ideological and non-partisan in its advocacy, urging lawmakers to set aside partisanship and to work together. TUW uses its convening power—bringing together all its partners: business, labor, nonprofits, and advocates—to help find policy common ground and to create change.

EDUCATION

Improve educational outcomes for all students in the tri-county region.

- Every child will be prepared for school and to meet grade level standards
- Every child will be supported in and out of school
- Every child will graduate from high school prepared for employment in the modern workforce or to achieve a postsecondary degree or credential
- All families will be engaged in their child's learning and development

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Improve the standard of living for all individuals in the tri-county region.

- All individuals who need them will have access to supports necessary to overcome financial crisis and move into financial stability
- All individuals who need them will have access to work supports necessary to achieve greater financial stability through gainful employment
- All individuals will know how to gain and sustain the assets necessary to maintain financially stable lives

HEALTH

Improve the health of all individuals in the tri-county region.

- All individuals will have access to health care
- All individuals will have an opportunity to live and participate in social and physical environments that promote good health
- All individuals will know how to lead healthy lives

TRIDENT UNITED WAY

2017 PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY PLATFORM

Approved by the Board of Directors December 14, 2016



PURPOSE

Trident United Way’s (TUW) Public Policy Advocacy Platform for 2017 is for use to influence state policy during the 122nd South Carolina General Assembly and local policy throughout 2017. It is designed to guide TUW as it works to assist policy-makers in crafting the best possible governmental policies in the areas of education, financial stability and health.

EDUCATION

Trident United Way will focus its education advocacy on improving educational outcomes for all students as follows:

	PLANNED ADVOCACY	DEVELOPING ADVOCACY
EDUCATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for universal access to 4k. 2. Advocate for increased access to quality early child care through tax credits, such as the school readiness tax credit, that promote the use of high-quality care. 3. Advocate for literacy and math skills development and grade level proficiency attainment. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for the creation of a comprehensive statewide system for quality early care and education programs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A definition of quality early care and education; • Measurable standards and evidence-based curriculum that applies to all sectors; and • Ongoing program evaluation. 2. Support the continued development and adoption of a statewide quality rating system for child care programs. 3. Advocate for the creation of a statewide office to coordinate all school readiness programs. 4. Support the reauthorization of First Steps to ensure all children have access to consistent, high quality, and affordable learning and care opportunities with First Steps enhancements around shared measurements and local collaboration to ensure best outcomes for children.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

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Trident United Way will focus its financial stability advocacy on improving the standard of living for all individuals as follows:

	PLANNED ADVOCACY	DEVELOPING ADVOCACY
FINANCIAL STABILITY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support policies and programs which expand the capacity of low-income individuals to obtain family-sustaining employment and enable working families to make ends meet. 2. Advocate for increased access to affordable housing through amendments to tax credits, such as the community economic development tax credit, that support community-based, nonprofit organizations that focus on improving quality of life and creating economic opportunity in low-income communities. 3. Support funding for healthy food financing initiatives. 4. Support legislation for inclusionary zoning, which links the production of affordable housing to the production of market-rate housing. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote <i>The Self-Sufficiency Standard for South Carolina</i> as an economic and professional development tool by engaging and educating individuals, policymakers, business leaders, labor and the nonprofit community. 2. Advocate for increased income supports and resources that help provide stability for lower-income families; tax credits for working families are designed to promote work by supplementing lower-wage earners' income, making child care and transportation affordable, as well as filling gaps for food, rent and utilities during challenging times. 3. Support policies to improve affordable housing options in the tri-county for low- and medium-income individuals and families.

HEALTH

Trident United Way will focus its health advocacy on improving the health of all individuals as follows:

	PLANNED ADVOCACY	DEVELOPING ADVOCACY
HEALTH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for the creation of an interstate medical licensure compact for qualified physicians located in Georgia and North Carolina, thereby allowing local patients in rural or underserved areas to more easily connect with medical experts through the use of telemedicine technologies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support programs that increase access to preventive clinical services, such as routine disease screening and scheduled immunizations in order to prevent and detect illnesses and diseases in their earlier, more treatable stages; to significantly reduce the risk of illness, disability, and early death; and to reduce medical care costs. 2. Support programs that increase access to counseling, mental health and crisis intervention services.