

TRIDENT UNITED WAY PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

124th Legislative Session (2020-22)



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.

We recognize that state and local policy structures have led to systemic inequities based on race. African American students, even those not in poverty, are 25% less likely to read at grade level than students in poverty and over 200% less likely than their White Non-Hispanic peers; African Americans and Hispanics are between two and six times more likely to report being uninsured than their White Non-Hispanic peers, and are almost three times more likely to be in poverty¹. We believe that one's prospects should not be tied to their race, zip code or their initial station in life and that policy solutions should work to address these systemic inequities.

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

¹ Data drawn from SC Department of Education (2019). SC Ready Results; American Community Survey (2017). Five-Year Smoothed Average.

TRIDENT UNITED WAY PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY PLATFORM

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PURPOSE

Trident United Way’s (TUW) Public Policy Advocacy Platform for 2020-2022 is for use to influence state policy during the 124th South Carolina General Assembly and local policy throughout 2020-2022. It is designed to inform TUW as it works to assist policymakers 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 childcare through tax credits, such as the school readiness tax credit, that promote the use of high-quality care. 3. Advocate for the use of the ABC Quality Rating System in early childcare. 4. Advocate for policies that promote kindergarten readiness and third grade reading proficiency. 	<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 kindergarten readiness; • Evidence-based curriculum that drives both student proficiency and growth ; and • Ongoing evaluation and data-driven policymaking 2. Advocate for the creation of a statewide office to coordinate all school readiness programs.

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FINANCIAL STABILITY

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 self-sufficiency. 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 forms of inclusionary zoning, building ordinances, and tax-incentive financing. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the Self-Sufficiency Standard for South Carolina 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.

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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 use of telemedicine as a means of addressing maternal and infant health in low to median income communities.2. Advocate for insurance coverage of Diabetes Prevention.3. Advocate for policies that expand the range, and reduce the cost, of available health insurance coverage options.	<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.3. Support programs that provide transportation opportunities to health facilities for low-income individuals.