

ADVOCATING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

UNITED WAY OF TAMPA BAY'S PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA FOR THE 2009 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

> Leadership Priorities

- ▶ **Local Public Employee Charitable Giving Campaigns:** Oppose legislation that removes local control and authority from the administration of local public employee charitable giving campaigns.

> Advocacy Priorities

HELP CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

- ▶ Protect funding for the **School Readiness program** and **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)** to increase school readiness.
- ▶ Protect the **Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.)** Early Childhood Scholarship Program to ensure the continuation of the only state-level quality initiative for Florida's school readiness programs.
- ▶ Protect funding for **local school districts** in order to improve high school graduation rates.

PROMOTE FINANCIAL STABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE

- ▶ Increase awareness of voluntary tax preparation assistance to expand opportunities for Florida families to benefit from the **Earned Income Tax Credit** and **Child Tax Credit**.
- ▶ Support legislation regulating **Refund Anticipation Loans** to protect consumers and families.
- ▶ Support concepts underlying the creation of **Credit Enhancement Loans** to help borrowers establish and enhance their credit ratings and improve their financial literacy.

PROVIDE A FOUNDATION OF CARE AND SUPPORT

- ▶ Increase awareness of **Florida's 2-1-1 network**.
- ▶ Partner with state and local emergency management teams to enhance the policies and procedures related to **Disaster Preparedness & Recovery**

> Support Priorities

- ▶ **Health Care:** Florida KidCare administrative improvements, monitor reforms to Medicaid, prioritization of substance abuse and mental health.
- ▶ **Affordable Housing:** Sadowski Housing Trust Fund and other initiatives.
- ▶ **State & Local Budget Processes:** support continued appropriations to organizations in the nonprofit sector.