

## United Way of Miami-Dade 2012 State Legislative Agenda

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES:** Florida's United Ways urge the Florida Legislature to apply the following as it considers budgetary and legislative issues during the 2012 Legislative Session.

**State Budget** – When considering budget reductions, make strategic (not across-the-board) cuts; maximize revenues to draw down all available federal funds; and focus on cost-effective, proven programs.

**Local Control** – Support the authority of local government and locally approved entities to determine the best use of resources.

**Focus on Prevention** – To the greatest extent possible, orient state spending towards prevention programs that will save the state money in the long run.

**PRIORITY:** United Way of Miami-Dade supports three priorities endorsed by United Ways throughout the state:

**Background Screening** – Florida's United Ways urge the 2012 Florida Legislature to create a comprehensive background screening system that, while ensuring protection of vulnerable populations, does not excessively burden volunteers, employers and employees and does not impede the ability of well-meaning volunteers and legitimate nonprofit agencies to provide critically needed assistance to people in their communities; **SUPPORT SB 320 /HB 943**

**Home and Community Care for the Elderly** – Florida's United Ways support maximizing funding for Community Care for the Elderly and Home Care for the Elderly; **SUPPORT Governor's Budget Proposal preserving current funding levels.**

**Early Learning** – Florida's United Ways support providing greater access to high quality early learning programs for Florida's children including:

- adequate funding for high quality School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten programs
- required use of research-based curricula with proven outcomes in early childhood programs
- pre- and post-assessments for every child in a Voluntary Prekindergarten program for 4 year-olds, to identify successful programs and to inform parents.

**SUPPORT:** United Way of Miami-Dade also endorses the following legislative positions:

**Class Size:** modify penalties for noncompliance with constitutional class size requirements to provide relief from class size penalties that fall unequally on Miami Dade County Public Schools; **SUPPORT SB 512/HB 4135**

**Debt Settlement:** enforce existing law, which limits the fees debt settlement companies can charge consumers for their services; **OPPOSE SB 336/HB 067.**

**MONITOR:** United Way of Miami-Dade will continue to monitor the Florida KidCare program to decrease the percentage of uninsured children in Florida and increase their access to health care.

Go to: <http://www.unitedwaymiami.org/Advocate/OurIssues>

Contact: Jessica Scher, Director of Public Policy, 305-646-7093 [scherj@unitedwaymiami.org](mailto:scherj@unitedwaymiami.org)