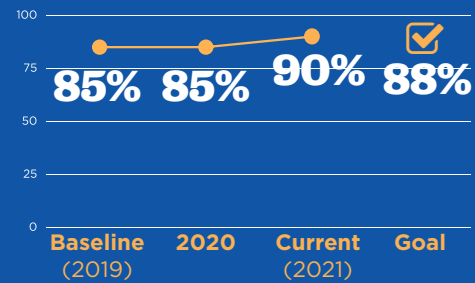


Health

15% of individuals lack access to affordable health care. This lack of access has a number of negative consequences. Uninsured individuals are less likely to receive preventive care and less likely to seek care as quickly when they are sick or injured. This can lead to worse health outcomes and higher costs in the long run.

GOAL: Increase access to affordable health care by **100,000** individuals

Informed by data from the Center for the Future of Arizona, Arizona Department of Health Services



Measured: Rate of Insured



United Way in Action

STRATEGY: Reduce barriers to accessing health care (transportation, social determinants, cost and lack of trust) through outreach and services that increase participation in health care programs.



- 8,834** individuals increased knowledge of how to overcome barriers to access to health care
- 6,617** transportation rides provided (medical/mental health services)
- 1,218** individuals enrolled for medical/mental health care benefits

SPOTLIGHT Community Health Workers

Community health workers, or promotoras, are critical frontline public health professionals who have an in-depth understanding of local communities and the strategies that are most impactful in the neighborhoods in which they have built deep, trusting relationships. Community health workers play a key role in facilitating access to services and increasing knowledge, understanding and self-sufficiency with under-resourced members of our community.

Through our MC2026 Health Coalition and Action Teams, partners advocated for and successfully worked with the Arizona Department of Health Services to create a voluntary licensing program for community health workers. The Arizona Department of Health Services began licensing community health workers in November 2022.

Valley of the Sun United Way has formed several partnerships and consulted with organizations including Arizona State University, Unlimited Potential, YMCA and others to create community health worker training programs that build skills in the areas of data, canvassing, health systems and knowledge, cultural beliefs and more.

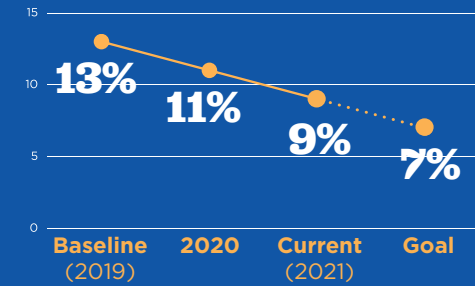
Valley of the Sun United Way currently provides funding for community health worker positions with Unlimited Potential, Helping Families in Need and notMYkid that are improving access to resources for children, families, and individuals across the Valley.



584,600 individuals in Maricopa County experience food insecurity, a condition in which people lack reliable access to affordable, nutritious food. Food insecurity can have a significant impact on physical and mental health, academic performance and financial stability. It can also force people to make difficult choices between food, rent and other essential needs.

GOAL: Decrease food insecurity by **50%**

Informed by data from Feeding America



Measured: Rate of Food Insecurity



United Way in Action

STRATEGY: Strengthen and support the emergency food system to reduce hunger among families and senior citizens.



- 453,597** individuals received emergency food
- 23,531,430** meals supplied to individuals
- 291,483** home-delivered meals



United Way's Future Focus on Health

Food deserts and higher food costs are preventing families from accessing affordable, healthy food. We will partner to lift up solutions to increase access in these geographically specific areas.

We will partner with community health workers and nonprofits to deliver culturally competent outreach and services that help remove barriers to accessing health care (i.e. transportation, costs and lack of trust). Monitoring closely how the end of the auto enrollments for SNAP and AHCCCS will impact access to vital support, we will increase outreach efforts where most needed.