

TOGETHER for

Mighty Change

in Maricopa County

Our vision for **EVERY** person in Maricopa County

We envision a community where every child, family and individual is healthy, has a safe place to live, and has every opportunity to succeed in school, in life, and in work.

Our focus

Our five-year plan focuses on Maricopa County, the people who live here, and the belief that regular change isn't enough...to achieve **bold** community goals in **health, housing & homelessness, education and workforce development** we must focus on Mighty Change.

We understand that systemic racial, social, economic, and educational inequities exist in every issue, so addressing equity must be part of every solution.

We also understand that all of these issues intersect, which is why we are addressing them together.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Health

**Housing
and
Homelessness**

Education

**Workforce
Development**

**ADVOCACY, PUBLIC POLICY,
AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT**



Health Goals:



Decrease
food insecurity by
50%

Increase
access to affordable
health care by
100,000
individuals



TOGETHER, we will:

- ✓ **Strengthen and support the emergency food system** and home-delivered meals programs;
- ✓ **Remove barriers to health care**, such as transportation, costs, and lack of trust through culturally appropriate outreach;
- ✓ **Increase access to health care**, including mental healthcare;
- ✓ **Prioritize communities needing services**, such as home-bound seniors;
- ✓ **Increase access** for Latino, Black, Indigenous and other communities.

Housing & Homelessness Goals:

Reduce
homelessness
by **50%**

TOGETHER, we will:

- ✓ Provide wraparound services that **prevent homelessness** and keep people in housing;
- ✓ **Decrease housing insecurity** through rent/utility assistance, housing navigators, and eviction prevention;
- ✓ **Support the emergency individual and family shelters** that move households out of crisis;
- ✓ Take a region-wide approach to housing and homelessness services and **collaborate with regional leaders** to create a county-wide shelter system with a comprehensive and coordinated strategy for all types of housing needed, including stand-alone and scattered-site permanent supportive housing, engaging the private market, and **supporting the development of affordable housing**;
- ✓ **Reduce barriers** to housing for communities of color;
- ✓ **Change the perception** that homelessness is a public safety issue—it is a public health issue.

Education Goals:

Increase
3rd grade
reading proficiency
by **25%**



Increase youth
aged 16-24 engaged in
education and employment opportunities by
38%



TOGETHER, we will:

- ✓ **Build and strengthen** literacy;
- ✓ Work with schools and partners to **focus on reading proficiency**;
- ✓ Bridge the Digital Divide and **engage volunteers** to help students read at grade level;
- ✓ **Keep vulnerable students from drifting too far** away from achievement;
- ✓ **Increase access to socio-emotional support** services for teens;
- ✓ **Increase online learning** and socio-emotional supportive services for parents, caregivers, and teachers;
- ✓ **Increase access** to basic family needs.

Workforce Development Goals:

Increase
preparation for a **living wage job** by
33%



Increase
achievement of **higher paying employment** by
20%



TOGETHER, we will:

- ✓ **Increase resources** that assist individuals in accessing job opportunities that increase their income and create sustainable employment;
- ✓ **Align business and education** to increase opportunities for students through work-based learning, apprenticeships, and mentoring experiences;
- ✓ **Collaborate** with regional leaders, employers, business associations, nonprofits, colleges and universities, and technical schools to build a cohesive, long-term strategy with shared goals and metrics.

Focus Areas

Learn more about each focus area at vsuw.org

MC2026

**Valley of the Sun
United Way**

**United
Way**

