

Creating **Mighty** Change for **FAMILIES**

MC2026:

A **5-Year Plan** for Mighty Change in Maricopa County

United Way belongs to our community, so we focus on issues the community tells us are most important. That's why we led a year-long, community-driven process to develop MC2026. Our research showed that issues intensified due to the pandemic and that systemic racial, social, economic and educational inequities exist in every issue, so addressing equity must be part of every solution.

All of these issues are interrelated which is why we are addressing them together. The bold goals already existed in the community, so we're shining a light on them and will focus our resources on achieving them. We hope you'll join us!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESS AND INCLUSION



ADVOCACY, PUBLIC POLICY, AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Focus on Education

By 2026, **TOGETHER** we will close opportunity gaps to ensure children read at grade level by 3rd grade and youth are prepared for educational success and employment.

GOAL #1:

Increase 3rd grade reading proficiency by 25%

Student success starts with quality early education that builds skills, especially reading proficiency. If students are not proficient readers when they begin 4th grade, as much as half of the curriculum will be incomprehensible.

- ▶ 3rd graders who **don't read at grade level** are **four times more likely** to **drop out** of high school
- ▶ In Maricopa County, **only 43%** of 3rd graders **read proficiently**

GOAL #2:

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

The combination of a high school diploma plus post-secondary education is the gateway to better paying jobs. In fact, nearly 7 of 10 jobs in Arizona require training beyond high school.

- ▶ **Nearly 10%** of 16-24 year olds in Maricopa County are **not enrolled in school or employed**
- ▶ **13%** of **12-17 year olds** reported **at least one depressive episode** in the past year

SUPPORT

Mighty Families

The Mighty Families initiative will assist 225 families with school-age children who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing homelessness, by providing a wide array of services to stabilize the families and allow children to remain in their school of origin.

This social and economic empowerment program promotes a two-generation approach designed to remove barriers to success, giving each student and their family a clear path to a productive future.





TOGETHER, for children, families,
our community and our Valley's future.

No single organization can achieve these goals alone. That's why United Way brings together several nonprofit and school partners, each with their own area of expertise and programs. When you give to United Way, your gift supports this array of partners, working together to solve these complex issues, track progress and report our results together.

Your investment creates **Mighty Change**

Your support of **Mighty Families** will:

- ✓ Identify students from high-needs schools who come from families that can most benefit from additional support;
- ✓ Assign families a Community Resource Navigator who will assess their needs in a culturally competent and responsive manner to determine what services and resources will most improve their situation;
- ✓ Help families in the program navigate federal, state and local social safety net programs; and
- ✓ Connect families to services based on their specific circumstances, which may include housing vouchers, career credentials, transportation, emergency medical services, financial literacy, food boxes and education services, to name a few.



Through a **1:2 match** from the
Siemer Institute for Family Stability,
your investment in **Mighty Families** goes even further!

For more information on how you can create Mighty Change for families in Maricopa County, contact:

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