Together for Mighty Change in Maricopa County

MC2026 Scorecard
Year One Baseline Report

Valley of the Sun United Way
Valley of the Sun United Way belongs to our community, so it is essential that we focus on the issues the community tells us are most important. That is why we conducted a year-long, community-driven process gathering input from business leaders, donors, policymakers, people with lived experience, nonprofit and school leaders, teachers, neighborhood residents, foundations and others to inform our work.

In 2021, we announced our collaborative five-year plan to create Mighty Change in Maricopa County by 2026 focused on the people who live in our community and the belief that regular change isn’t enough. To achieve the bold goals in our community’s plan, we must create Mighty Change.

The bold goals outlined in our plan were not created solely by Valley of the Sun United Way; they build upon existing community goals, and we have redeployed our energies and realigned our resources, leadership and partners to achieve them. All of these issues intersect, which is why we are addressing them together.

Progress against the goals for Mighty Change are tracked and reported annually. Enclosed highlights the current community baselines, efforts and learnings throughout the first year of our plan for Mighty Change.

- Established coalitions for the four impact areas, convening over 230 community stakeholders to guide and inform the work of reaching MC2026 community goals together.
- Launched new initiatives including Pathways to Economic Opportunity to provide mentorships, internships and externships for young Black and Latina women, Senior Connect in partnership with Ruby’s Diner to provide prepared meals to homebound seniors, and our Grassroots funding, giving a voice and support to new and smaller community-based nonprofit partners aligned with our MC2026 plan.
- Redeployed office space as a community asset for public use and nonprofit co-working space.
- Engaged over 5,000 volunteers in support of our MC2026 work in safe and creative ways.
**Executive Summary**

**Health**
- Food insecurity increased since COVID-19
- 1 in 5 children and 1 in 7 seniors don’t have enough to eat
- 800,000 Arizonans report not having health insurance
- United Way in Action: Focused on strengthening emergency food system, health care enrollments and access to COVID-19 vaccinations
- Next Steps: Health equity through the support of culturally responsive community health workforce, vaccinations, pandemic recovery and resiliency planning

**Education**
- In 2021, the percentage of our third graders passing the state assessment for reading dropped to 35%, widening the achievement gap among students
- 1 in 9 local 16-24 year olds are not enrolled in school or employed
- United Way in Action: Focused on connecting students to mentoring, tutoring and resources to close the digital divide, as well as training support for parents/caregivers and teachers
- Next Steps: Implementing evidenced-based solutions, including engaging students and parents through literacy hubs and online reading tutors

**Workforce Development**
- 7 out of 10 Arizona jobs require training beyond high school, yet only 49% of Maricopa County residents ages 25-64 have completed a two-year or four-year degree
- United Way in Action: Focused on connecting individuals to training, mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities, as well as removing employment barriers through child care scholarships
- Next Steps: Partner with businesses on talent pipeline opportunities, advocate for livable wages and increase job opportunities for ex-offenders

**Housing & Homelessness**
- Valley population growth drove average rents up 20%, putting Maricopa County at the forefront of national eviction rates
- On any given night in the Valley, 9,000 individuals are experiencing homelessness, up from just over 7,000 pre-pandemic
- United Way in Action: Focused on supporting rent and utility assistance, housing navigators and eviction prevention, as well as the emergency shelter system
- Next Steps: Housing stability through efficiencies among our housing services provider network and increasing case management as new, affordable housing units become available

**Increase preparation for a living wage job by 33%**
- 49% Current Baseline
- 68% MC2026 Goal

**Increase achievement of higher paying employment by 20%**
- 66% Current Baseline
- 75% MC2026 Goal
Health

Remove barriers to ensure everyone in our community is healthy, with a focus on access to food and health care.

United Way in Action

Our goal is to ensure that everyone in our community is healthy and has access to food and health care. There’s a lot of work to do.

To start, we are partnering with health providers, nonprofits and community-based organizations to increase health care access and we began with COVID-19 vaccinations. We are also continuing to strengthen and support the emergency food system to reduce hunger among families and older adults.

Decide food insecurity by 50%

Decrease from 584,600 to 292,300 individuals

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<th>Current Baseline</th>
<th>MC2026 Goal</th>
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<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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Increase access to affordable health care by 100,000 individuals

Increase from 3,622,100 to 3,922,100 individuals

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<tr>
<th>Current Baseline</th>
<th>MC2026 Goal</th>
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<td>85%</td>
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Mighty Goals

Spotlight

During the pandemic, vulnerable seniors were left struggling to access a reliable and consistent source of nutritious food.

Funded by a grant Valley of the Sun United Way received from the Mackenzie Scott Foundation, Senior Connect was created to address food insecurity. In partnership with Ruby’s Diner, this innovative program provided restaurant-quality meals to older adults in need. Over five months, approximately 1,000 older adults across the North Valley and Northwest Valley received meals.

Our goal was not only to work with our partners to provide nutritious food, but to help connect older adults to resources that will assist them long-term with food insecurity, health care access and other pressing needs.

Next Steps

To reduce barriers such as lack of trust within the health care system, helping to bolster the community health workforce alongside health systems and funded partners.

Continue coordination of vaccines and testing in schools, with priority focus on vaccines for children under 5.

Support pandemic recovery and resiliency planning, working with the Arizona Department of Health Services and ONE Community.
Ensure all can have a safe home to call their own.

Having a safe place to call home is a first step in addressing health, education and workforce development challenges. We are working with partners to decrease housing insecurity by investing in rent and utility assistance, housing navigators and eviction prevention. We also support emergency shelters that help move households out of crisis.

Looking ahead, we will collaborate with regional leaders to develop new, affordable housing solutions.

**STRATEGY 1**
Provide wraparound services that prevent homelessness and keep people in housing.

- **Project Connect**
  - Five events are scheduled to occur across the Valley in locations that can immediately connect the unhoused with available resources. In the two that have been held, we helped 264 individuals and 117 volunteered.

- **Summer Heat Relief**
  - We partnered with Women United on a Bottled Water Drive that collected 455,148 bottles of water for the unhoused

**STRATEGY 2**
Decrease housing insecurity through rent/utility assistance, housing navigators and eviction prevention.

- **Rent and Utility Assistance**
  - 16,779 rental and utility assists, as a way to keep families housed when unexpected costs or loss of employment occur

- **Housing**
  - 3,083 families moved into stable housing

**STRATEGY 3**
Support the emergency individual and family shelters that move households out of crisis.

**Next Steps**
- Increase support for the case management needed as new affordable housing units become available in our community.
- Help connect newer housing services providers to a larger network through our Housing & Homelessness Coalition, thereby identifying solutions together and reducing duplication.
Close opportunity gaps to ensure children read at grade level by 3rd grade and youth are prepared for educational success and employment.

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

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

**Mighty Goals**

**STRATEGY 1**

Work with schools and partners to focus on reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade, where the greatest challenges exist.

- **Mentoring**
  - 4,428 students received 1:1 mentoring to support youth in decision-making and provide access to a caring adult who can guide, listen and offer needed resources along the way

- **Academic Assistance**
  - 14,860 students received additional literacy tutoring and academic assistance

**STRATEGY 2**

Build and strengthen literacy capacity of early learning practitioners, caregivers and parents, and continue to support quality early education.

- **Increased Knowledge**
  - 52,758 parents, caregivers and teachers increased their knowledge of how best to support students through professional development programs

- **Student Support**
  - 14,007 connected to a needed resource ranging from a basic need to support in completing their FAFSA application

**STRATEGY 3**

Increase access to socio-emotional support services for teens.

**United Way in Action**

COVID-19 has not only impacted education for students of all ages, it has shed light on inequities in education that existed pre-pandemic. We focus on supporting nonprofits, schools and community providers who specialize in keeping vulnerable students from drifting too far away from achievement. We work to convene and support reading initiatives, and with our corporate partners and donors, we leverage funds to bridge the digital divide.

**Next Steps**

- Working with community partners, schools, Read On Arizona and the Arizona Department of Education to increase evidence-based solutions locally, especially through newly established literacy hubs.

- Placing increased number of volunteers as online reading tutors.
Open pathways to better paying jobs.

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

49% Current Baseline

Rate of Job Attainment

68% MC2026 Goal

Increase from 1,306,400 to 1,812,900 individuals

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

66% Current Baseline

Rate of Higher Paid Employment

75% MC2026 Goal

Increase from 1,759,600 to 1,999,500 individuals

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**Mighty Goals**

Workforce development means increasing resources to help individuals raise their income and create sustainable careers. It means connecting business and education to improve work-based learning opportunities, apprenticeship and mentoring. It also means working with Valley business associations, educational institutions and other partners to develop long-term strategies to increase the number of workers with high-paying, in-demand jobs.

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**United Way in Action**

Workforce development involves increasing resources to help individuals raise their income and create sustainable careers. It includes connecting business and education to improve work-based learning opportunities, apprenticeship and mentoring. It also involves working with Valley business associations, educational institutions and other partners to develop long-term strategies to increase the number of workers with high-paying, in-demand jobs.

**STRATEGY 1**

Increase resources that assist individuals to access job opportunities that increase their income and create sustainable employment.

**Employment**

- 14,220 individuals obtained employment or increased their income due to access of resources supported by United Way

**STRATEGY 2**

Align business and education to increase opportunities for students through work-based learning, apprenticeships and mentoring.

**Scholarships**

- 7,100 child care scholarships provided so families can continue working while they are confident their child is in a quality early learning program

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**Next Steps**

- Partner with businesses and organizations in the community to develop new talent pipeline opportunities.
- Advocate for livable wages in Maricopa County.
- Increase job opportunities for ex-offenders.
Your generosity changes lives.

OUR PARTNERS are Valley of the Sun United Way’s biggest supporters championing the work to create Mighty Change in Maricopa County through volunteerism, financial contributions and leadership. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Million Dollar Corporate Circle

- **$500,000-$999,999**
  - aps
  - Edward Jones
  - Freeport-McMoRan
  - QuikTrip
  - SRF

- **$250,000-$499,999**
  - ASU
  - BlueCross BlueShield Arizona
  - City of Phoenix
  - UPS
  - USAA

MC2026 $100,000 Lead Investors

- Alamo
- Enterprise
- National
- Petsmart

Creating **Mighty Change** in

- **HEALTH**
- **HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS**
- **EDUCATION**
- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Your Impact

$12,354,122 invested in Maricopa County

Programs by Area

- ED: Basic Needs & Support Services
- ED: Build & Strengthen Literacy Capacity
- ED: Online Learning & Socioemotional Support
- H&H: Decrease Housing Insecurity
- H&H: Prevention and Assistance
- H&H: Support Emergency Shelter System
- Health: Food Access
- Health: Healthcare Access

This map view includes all FY22 funded program locations. The locations are color coded by Program Strategy. Includes strategies for Education, Health, and Housing & Homlessness Impact Areas.
One year ago, we launched **bold goals** to create Mighty Change where our community needed it most. Because of you, we’re one step closer to reaching them.

Our work is fueled by companies and their employees who give their **time**, **money** and **voice** to improve the lives of others.

When we unite, we create a more equitable future for all.

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**Definitions**

- *3rd Grade Reading Proficiency*: Percentage of 3rd grade students who met or exceeded state standards in reading.
- *Affordable Health Care*: Health care is considered affordable if a household can pay for estimated annual premiums and out-of-pocket spending without cutting into spending for other necessities.
- *Affordable Housing*: Affordable housing is generally defined as housing on which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs, including utilities.
- *Attainment*: Percentage of Arizona residents 25-64 years of age who have completed a two- or four-year degree or who have an active professional certificate or license.
- *Career Pathway*: Career pathways include career exploration, quality work-based learning experiences, and opportunities for students to earn college credit toward a degree or credential with labor market value.
- *Food Insecurity*: Food insecurity is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life.
- *Homelessness*: A lack of fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.
- *Opportunity Youth*: Opportunity youth are young people who are between the ages of 16 to 24 years old and are disconnected from school and work.
- *Quality Health Care*: Provides coverage for pre-existing conditions and access to mental health benefits.

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**Resources**

- Education: Education Forward Arizona Progress Meter and Maricopa Association of Governments Literacy Map Student Enrollment, 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency [https://educationforwardarizona.org/progress/indicators/third-grade-reading/?indicators=State:Arizona::All](https://educationforwardarizona.org/progress/indicators/third-grade-reading/?indicators=State:Arizona::All)
- Education: Opportunities for Youth - an initiative of ASU Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions, Heat Map [https://oppforyouth.org/boy-maps](https://oppforyouth.org/boy-maps)
- Workforce Development: Education Forward Arizona, Attainment Progress Meter [https://educationforwardarizona.org/progress/indicators/attainment/?indicators=State:Arizona::All,County:Maricopa%20County::All](https://educationforwardarizona.org/progress/indicators/attainment/?indicators=State:Arizona::All,County:Maricopa%20County::All)
- Workforce Development: Brookings Institute, Meet the Low Wage Workforce [https://www.brookings.edu/research/meet-the-low-wage-workforce/](https://www.brookings.edu/research/meet-the-low-wage-workforce/)

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**Thank You to Our Data Partners!**
Together, we will create Mighty Change in Maricopa County.