

Together for
**Mighty
Change**
in Maricopa County

MC2026 Scorecard
Year One Baseline Report



Valley of the Sun
United Way



Together for **Mighty Change** in Maricopa County



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.

Watch Our **Latest Stories** of **Mighty Change**
Learn more about our community partners in each area.



Health



Housing & Homelessness



Education



Workforce Development

Year One Highlights

- 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.

MC 2026 Scorecard

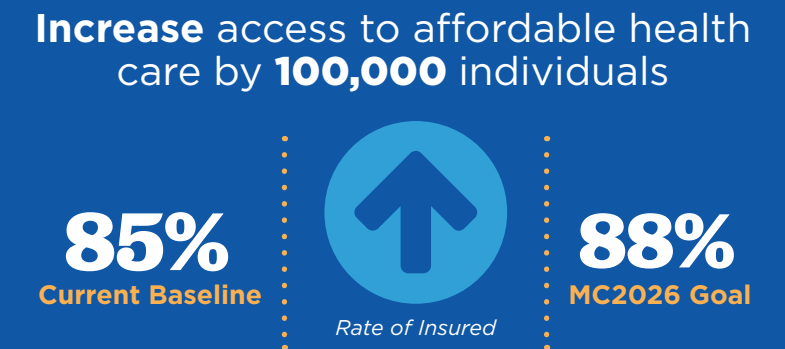
Year One Baseline Report

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

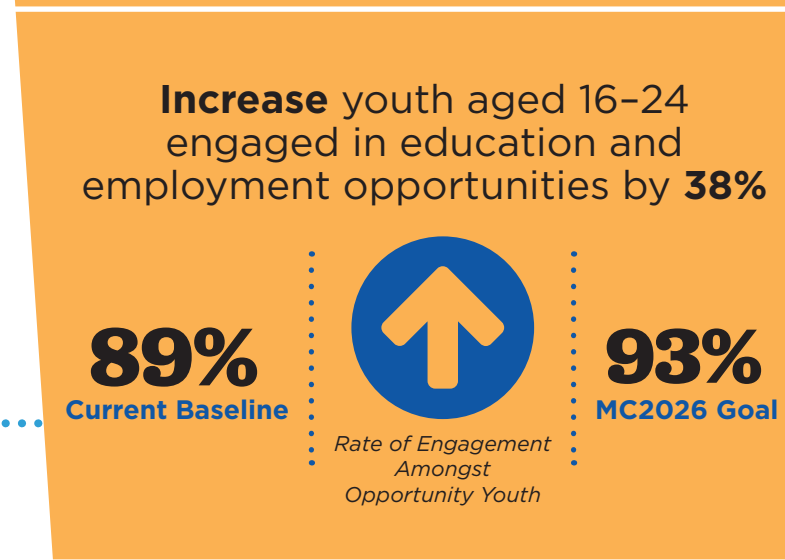
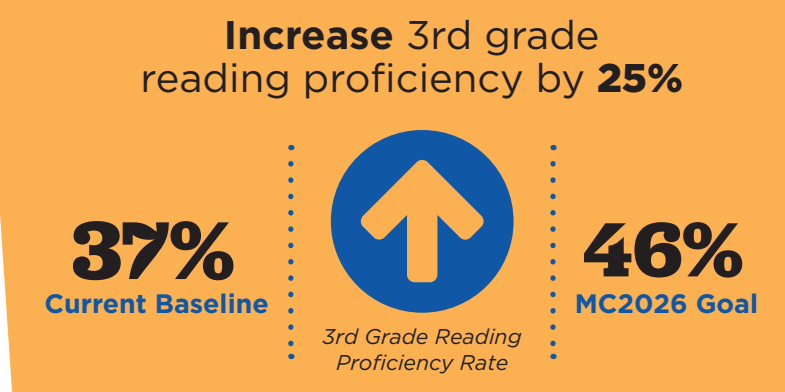


Housing & Homelessness

- 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

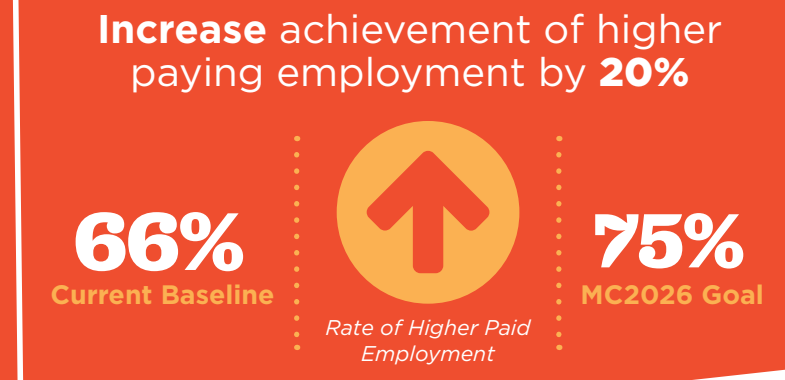
Education

- 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



Health

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

Decrease food insecurity by **50%**

13%
Current Baseline



Rate of Food Insecurity

7%
MC2026 Goal

Decrease from 584,600 to 292,300 individuals

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

85%
Current Baseline



Rate of Insured

88%
MC2026 Goal

Increase from 3,822,100 to 3,922,100 individuals

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.

STRATEGY 1

Strengthen and support the emergency food system and home-delivered meals that reduce hunger in families and seniors.

Senior Connect

▶ **140,820** frozen, restaurant-quality meals were delivered to older adults in the Northwest Valley, removing barriers to cost of food and transportation

Emergency Food, Home Delivered and Congregate Meals

▶ **875,610** local residents received nutritious and healthy meals

STRATEGY 2

Remove barriers to health care, such as transportation, costs and lack of trust through culturally appropriate outreach and services to increase participation in comprehensive health care services.

Health Care Enrollment

▶ **2,529** individuals enrolled in medical/mental health care

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.

MC2026

Housing & Homelessness

Ensure all can have a safe home to call their own.

Reduce homelessness by **50%**

9,000

Current Baseline



Individuals
Experiencing
Homelessness

4,500

MC2026 Goal

Mighty Goal



United Way in Action

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

STRATEGY 3

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

Housing

▶ **3,083** families moved into stable housing

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.

Education

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%**

37%
Current Baseline



3rd Grade Reading Proficiency Rate

46%
MC2026 Goal

Increase from 20,000 to 24,800 students

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

89%
Current Baseline



Rate of Engagement Amongst Opportunity Youth

93%
MC2026 Goal

Increase from 280,000 to 292,700 individuals

Mighty Goals



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.



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

STRATEGY 3

Increase access to socio-emotional support services for teens.

Student Support

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

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.

Workforce Development

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

Mighty Goals



United Way in Action

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.

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

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



\$250,000-\$499,999



MC2026 \$100,000 Lead Investors

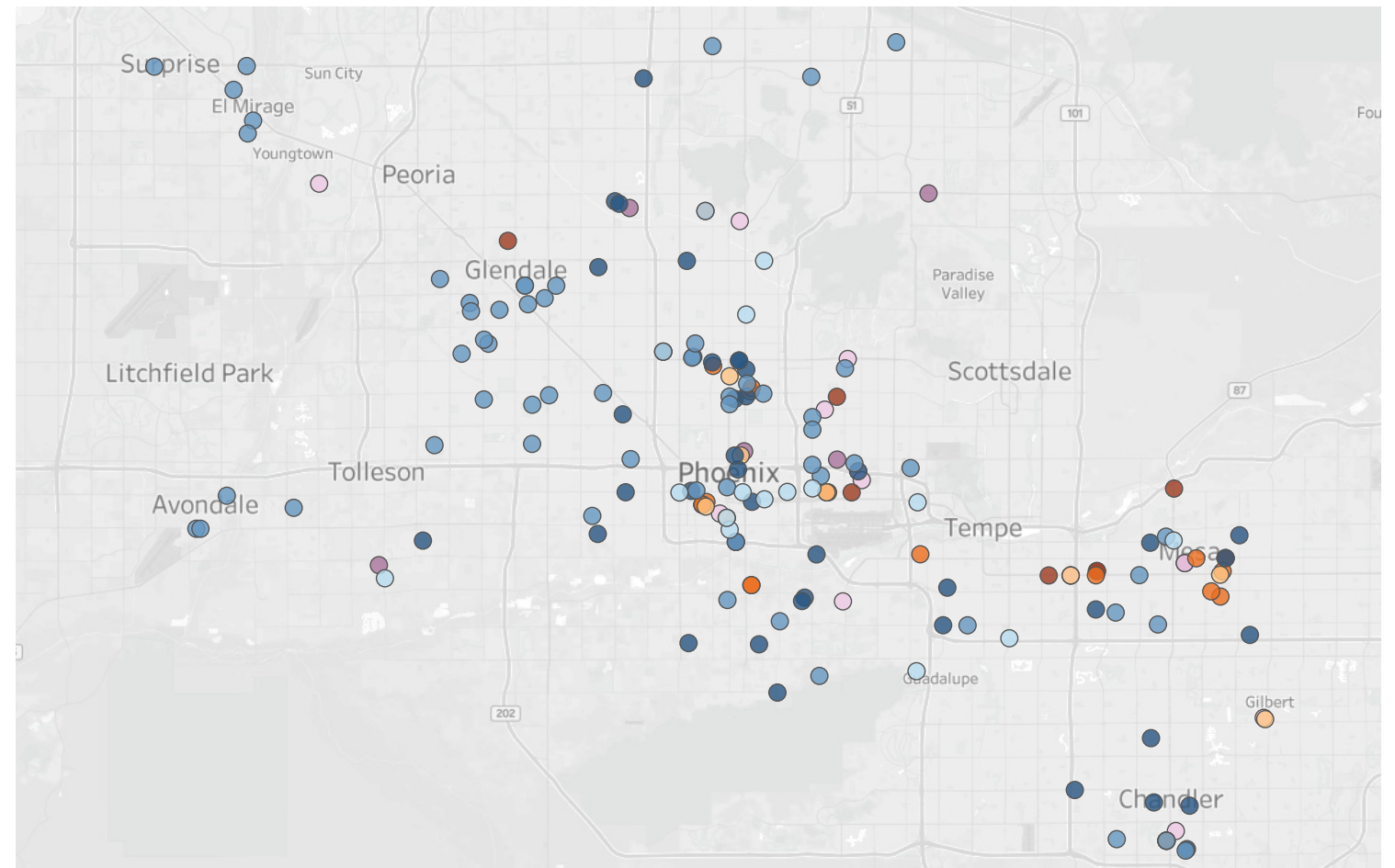


Creating **Mighty Change** in

HEALTH | HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS | EDUCATION | WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



vsuw.org



Programs by Area

Strategy	
Light Blue	ED: Basic Needs & Support Services
Medium Blue	ED: Build & Strengthen Literacy Capacity
Dark Blue	ED: Online Learning & Socioemotional Support
Light Orange	H&H: Decrease Housing Insecurity
Dark Orange	H&H: Prevention and Assistance
Brown	H&H: Support Emergency Shelter System
Pink	Health: Food Access
Purple	Health: Healthcare Access

Your Impact

\$12,354,122
invested in **Maricopa County**

Over 230 Coalition Members

Valley of the Sun United Way brought together nonprofit organizations and schools, as well as many other corporate, foundation and regional partners to form MC2026 Coalitions aligned to solve Maricopa County's most pressing issues.

Health

Academia del Pueblo
Adelante Healthcare
American Academy of Pediatrics - Arizona Chapter
Arizona Caregiver Coalition
Arizona Center for Disability Law
Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
Arizona Department of Health Services
Arizona Food Bank Network
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
Arizona Latin-American Medical Association
Arizona Public Service
Arizona State University
Arvizu Companies
Aster Aging
AZCEND
Banner Health
Banner Health Foundation
Banner Olive Branch Senior Center
Bayless Integrated Healthcare
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
Campesinos Sin Fronteras
Cancer Support Community Arizona
Chicanos Por La Causa
Child & Family Resources
City of Phoenix
Clever International Solutions
Comm Equity
CommonSpirit Health
Covenant Health Network
Creighton Community Foundation
Dignity Health
Duet
Equality Health
Equality Health Foundation
Esperança
Father Matters
Foundation for Senior Living
Fresh Start Women's Foundation
Friendly House
Grand Canyon University
Helping Families in Need
HonorHealth
HonorHealth Desert Mission
Hushabye Nursery
Insurus Medicare Solutions
Keogh Health Connection
Littleton Elementary School District
Maricopa County
Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Mayo Clinic
Medi Healthcare Solutions

NATIVE HEALTH
notMYkid
Nourish PHX
Office of the Arizona Governor Doug Ducey
PrevenCare
Project Roots AZ
Revive Health
SBHIS Insurance Services
Solari
Sonora Quest Laboratories
St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center
St. Mary's Food Bank
Street Medicine Phoenix
Tempe Community Action Agency
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
The Salvation Army
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
The University of Arizona, Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
TigerMountain Foundation
UnidosUS
United Food Bank
Unlimited Potential
US Foods
Valle del Sol
Valleywise Health Foundation
Walgreens
Waste Not
Wesley Community Center
World Hunger Ecumenical Arizona Task Force

Housing & Homelessness

A New Leaf
Area Agency on Aging, Region One
Arizona Bar Foundation
Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation
Arizona Department of Child Safety
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Arizona Department of Education
Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
Arizona Housing Coalition
Arizona Housing, Inc.
Arizona State University, Action Nexus on Housing and Homelessness
Arizona State University, McCain Institute for International Leadership
Arizona Youth Partnership
Arizona's Children Association
AZCEND
Catholic Charities Community Services
Central Arizona Shelter Services
Chicanos Por La Causa
City of Avondale
City of Glendale
City of Peoria

City of Phoenix
City of Surprise
Community Bridges, Inc.
Community Solutions
Foster Arizona
Homeless ID Project
Homeless Youth Connection
Homeward Bound
Human Services Campus
Justa Center
La Frontera Arizona / EMPACT - Suicide Prevention Center
Live & Learn
Maggie's Place
Maricopa Association of Governments
Maricopa County
Mercy Care
Mercy Housing
Native American Connections
Northern Trust
Phoenix Indian Center
Phoenix Rescue Mission
RI International
Save the Family Foundation of Arizona
Solari
Southwest Center
St. Joseph the Worker
Tempe Community Action Agency
The Garcia Family Foundation
The Salvation Army
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
U.C.C.A.N!
U.S.VETS
UMOM New Day Centers
Valley Leadership
Veterans Affairs
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust
Vitalyst Health Foundation

Education

A New Leaf
Academia del Pueblo
ACCEL
Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits
Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
Arizona Department of Education
Arizona Head Start Association
Arizona Kids Think Too
Arizona Latino Leaders In Education (ALL In Education)
Arizona State University, ASU Foundation, Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions - Opportunities for Youth

Arizona State University, ASU Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation
Arizona's Children Association
Attendance Works
Avondale Elementary School District
AZCEND
Be A Leader Foundation
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley
Boys Hope Girls Hope of Arizona
Candelen
Cartwright School District
Center for the Future of Arizona
Chicanos Por La Causa
Child Crisis Arizona
City of Phoenix
Dysart Community Center
Educare Arizona
Education Forward Arizona
Elevate Phoenix
Florence Crittenton
Foundation for Blind Children
Free Arts
Friendly House
Friends of the Avondale Libraries & Recreation
Friends of the Children
Future for KIDS
Girl Scouts-Arizona Cactus-Pine Council
Glendale Elementary School District
Helios Education Foundation
Homeless Youth Connection
Homeward Bound
ICAN
Jobs for Arizona's Graduates
Junior Achievement of Arizona
Littleton Elementary School District
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
National Center for Families Learning
Neighborhood Ministries
New Pathways for Youth
Raising Special Kids
Read Better Be Better
Read On Arizona
Scholastic
School Connect
Scottsdale Community College
SOUNDS Academy
Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center
Southwest Human Development
Stand for Children Arizona
Teach For America Phoenix
The University of Arizona, Forbes School of Business and Technology
UnidosUS

Union Elementary School District
Unlimited Potential
UPWARD for Children and Families
Valley Leadership
Valley of the Sun YMCA
Washington Elementary School District
Wesley Community Center
World Hunger Ecumenical Arizona Task Force
Zion Institute
Zovio Careers

Workforce Development

A New Leaf
Arizona Career Pathways
Arizona State University
Arizona State University, ASU Foundation, Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions - Opportunities for Youth
Arizona Technology Council Foundation, SciTech Institute
Arouet Foundation
Banner Health
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley
Career Connectors
Center for the Future of Arizona
Chicanos Por La Causa
Chrysalis
Covenant Health Network
Deloitte
Dress for Success Phoenix
EmFluent
Fresh Start Women's Foundation
Friendly House
Grand Canyon Council, Boy Scouts of America
Greater Phoenix Chamber Foundation
Greater Phoenix Urban League
Helping Hands for Single Moms
Jewish Family & Children's Service
Jobs for Arizona's Graduates
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Junior Achievement of Arizona
Live & Learn
Maricopa Association of Governments
Maricopa County
Mesa Community College, Arizona Advanced Manufacturing Institute
Nationwide
Neighborhood Ministries
Pathward
Per Scholas
PetSmart
Phoenix Indian Center
Pipeline AZ

Scottsdale Community College
St. Joseph the Worker
Stand for Children Arizona
The Salvation Army
U.S.VETS
UMOM New Day Centers
Union Elementary School District
Valley of the Sun YMCA
Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy
World Hunger Ecumenical Arizona Task Force
Year Up
YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix

Grassroots

Achieving My Purpose
Advocacy31nine
Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
Arizona Faith Network
Autism Life and Living
Backpacks 4 Kids AZ
Boys to Men of Greater Phoenix
College Bound AZ
Family of God Ministry
Father Matters
Fuerte Arts Collective
Gateway to Freedom
Haitian American Center for Social Economic Development
Harmony Project Phoenix
Opportunity Through Entrepreneurship Foundation
Our Sister Our Brother
Phoenix Cancer Support Network
Phoenix Legal Action Network
Project Roots AZ
Rising Youth Theatre
Sage Foundation for Health
SER-KALLAI
Si Se Puede Foundation
Skye's the Limit Foundation
Southwest Lending Closet
Stepping Up for Seniors
The Arc of Tempe
Valley of the Sun Early Childhood Association
Village 360

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.

Thank You to Our Data Partners!



Resources

- ▶ Health insurance: Center for the Future of Arizona, 2022 Health Progress Meter <https://www.arizonafuture.org/progress-meters/health-and-well-being/health-insurance/>
- ▶ Health food insecurity: Feeding America, The Impact of the Coronavirus on Local Food Insecurity in 2020 & 2021 https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Local%20Projections%20Brief_3.31.2021.pdf
- ▶ Housing & Homelessness: Maricopa Association of Governments 2022, Point-in-Time Count Report <https://azmag.gov/Portals/0/Documents/MagContent/2022-PIT-Count-Report-Final.pdf?ver=mHByGa3hHNtmeOOfMZxtA%3D%3D>
- ▶ 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://geo.azmag.gov/maps/readonaz/>
- ▶ Education: Opportunities for Youth - an initiative of ASU Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions, Heat Map <https://oppforyouth.org/oy-maps>
- ▶ Workforce Development: Education Forward Arizona, Attainment Progress Meter <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/>



Thank you

for everything you do to make our community a better place.

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**, their **money** and their **voice** to *improve the lives of others*.

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

Together,

we ~~can~~ **will** create

Mighty Change

in Maricopa
County

Valley of the Sun
United Way



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