



Valley of the Sun United Way Fact Sheet

Valley of the Sun United Way is the largest investor of health and human service programs in Maricopa County, touching millions of lives each year. United Way has served the health and human service needs of families and individuals since 1925.

United Way mobilizes a wide array of partners to effectively create change on two levels: 1) drive systemic change that impacts entire communities, and 2) transform individual lives every day.

Together with our 90,000 individual donors, 700 business supporters, volunteers and advocates, we are building caring communities where each person has the opportunity to achieve the aspirations we all share: a good education for our kids, a safe place to live, food on the table and the security that comes with financial independence.

To create a stronger community for us all to live, work and raise our families, Valley of the Sun United Way is focused on achieving three key Community Objectives:

- Ensure Children and Youth Succeed
- End Hunger and Homelessness
- Increase the Financial Stability of Families and Individuals

United Way has identified key goals to achieve its Community Objectives:

- Increase by 20 percent young children who enter school ready to succeed by 2020.
- Increase by 5 percent youth who graduate high school by 2020.
- Reduce Chronic Hunger by 66 percent in Maricopa County by 2020.
- Reduce homelessness by 75 percent by 2020.
- Help 100,000 individuals achieve self-sufficiency in Maricopa County by 2020.



UNITED WAY COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

FACTS AT-A-GLANCE

End Hunger

- 82,000 Maricopa County households experience chronic hunger, which means they may not know where their next meal will come from. That's one in 20 households.
- Forty-five percent of those households have children who come to school hungry and unable to focus on school work and lessons important to their education.
- Twenty percent of those households have senior citizens who must make tough choices between food and utilities or medication.

End Homelessness

- On any given day in Maricopa County, thousands of people experience homelessness, including families with children and veterans.
- About 20 percent experience chronic homelessness, or long-term homelessness for more than a year. They use more than 50 percent of community homeless resources including emergency shelter beds, stretching capacity to serve individuals experiencing homelessness for the first time.
- Many others are experiencing homelessness for the first time due to a job loss, foreclosure or unexpected medical crisis.

Ensure Children and Youth Succeed

- Eighty percent of a child's brain develops by age 3 and 90 percent by age 5.
- About 25 percent of Arizona fourth-graders are prepared to read proficiently. (National Assessment of Educational Progress)
- In 2011, nearly 22 percent of Maricopa County high school students did not graduate within four years. **(2012 County Health Rankings)**

Increase Financial Stability of Families and Individuals

- One in five Arizonans lives in poverty. ([Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau](#))
- One in four children, age 18 and under, live in poverty in Arizona. ([Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau](#))