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## **United Way Presents Policy Agenda for 2015 Legislative Session at Annual Legislative Preview Breakfast**

*State support of Utah's 2-1-1 Information and Referral system, Healthy Utah Medicaid expansion plan and community school access are top priorities*

SALT LAKE CITY — United Way of Salt Lake presented its public policy agenda for the upcoming legislative session at the *2015 Legislative Preview Breakfast* on Wednesday. The breakfast offered community and business leaders, nonprofit organizations and others the opportunity to engage in a panel discussion with legislative leaders about issues facing all Utahns.

This year's panelists included Speaker Greg Hughes, House Minority Leader Brian King, Senate Majority Leader Ralph Okerlund and Senate Minority Leader Gene Davis. Legislators answered questions about key issues facing the upcoming legislature focused on education, income stability, health, and basic needs. Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox also gave a special address focused on the upcoming session.

"We all believe a collective impact approach to community problem solving is critical for the future success of Utah," said Deborah Bayle, president and CEO of United Way of Salt Lake. "United Way's priorities for 2014 support the development and implementation of long-term solutions that will positively impact Utahns today and for generations to come."

Through a collaborative effort with businesses, community leaders, and the broader community, United Way identified its top legislative priorities for 2015:

### **EDUCATION: Community Schools**

United Way of Salt Lake has long believed that improving educational outcomes for all children is fundamental to Utah's prosperity. Quality education must be a collaborative effort, and requires Utahns to work together in innovative ways by sharing accountability, using data to drive decisions, and aligning resources and efforts. United Way, as well as many other communities and states have embraced community schools. A community school creates the capacity and focus on facilitating the effective collaboration necessary to ensure all children are successful, particularly in schools that are highly impacted by poverty.

### **BASIC NEEDS: 2-1-1 Information and Referral**

Another top priority of United Way is to ensure continued funding for the crucial 2-1-1 service by building upon the existing public-private partnership funding structure that includes funds from the state and continued private funding through United Way. The funding will ensure this free, statewide

service can continue to provide quality, up-to-date information to Utahns in need and those seeking opportunities to volunteer.

### **HEALTH: Healthy Utah Medicaid expansion plan**

United Way of Salt is also supporting Healthy Utah, the Governor's unique Medicaid expansion plan. Healthy Utah will create affordable private market-based options for working individuals and families, ensure vulnerable Utahns have access to health coverage, and bring Utahns' tax dollars back to the state. Additionally, the plan will ensure the health and financial security of thousands of Utah families in need. 27 percent of children and 63 percent of adults who currently don't have health insurance would be eligible for Medicaid if the state adopts Healthy Utah.

**For more information about United Way and to see the full public policy agenda for 2014, please visit [uw.org/advocate](http://uw.org/advocate).**

**United Way of Salt Lake is working to advance the education, income, and health of our neighborhoods and communities to ensure that every child succeeds, every step of the way, from cradle to career. We invite everyone to be a part of the change. You can give, you can advocate, and you can volunteer. That's what it means to LIVE UNITED. Join the conversation by visiting our blog at [uwslhub.org](http://uwslhub.org), or find out more at [uw.org](http://uw.org).**

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