THE AFL-CIO-UNITED WAY PARTNERSHIP was created more than 75 years ago. This beneficial and long lasting partnership has engaged hundreds of thousands of working people--union members and non-members alike--in programs that benefit communities across the country, and assisted millions of workers in their time of need.

The United Way and the labor movement share a common vision of prosperous, inclusive, diverse and safe communities where every member of the community has access to quality public education, fair wages, productive work opportunities, and accessible, affordable, quality healthcare.

In recent years, the AFL-CIO and the United Way have undergone organizational changes that have led to an increased focus on developing sustainable solutions to the problems facing working families and communities around the country, and creating programs that bring diverse organizations together to advance the common good and address the root causes of social and economic inequality.

In 2015, the AFL-CIO and United Way Worldwide engaged hundreds of AFL-CIO and United Way leaders across the country in conversations to reimagine our partnership and identify strategies to strengthen our relationship. We emerged from this process with a new AFL-CIO-United Way National Partnership Agreement and ideas for creative new ways to collaborate. This national partnership agreement sets forth a new paradigm by which we:

- Develop collaborative programs that address root causes of inequality and lead to long-term change in communities;
● Build strategic labor-community partnerships to increase power for workers; and

● Strengthen the capacity of local Labor movements and United Way chapters by increasing union and member engagement, for example through community service projects or other activities.

A key component of our partnership is a network of more than 100 AFL-CIO/United Way Labor Liaisons and Labor Agency staff who work in communities across the country and are responsible for:

● Bridging the United Way and Labor communities and developing strategies to strengthen local partnerships;

● Fostering strong relationships with labor unions to ensure successful United Way fundraising campaigns;

● Identifying opportunities for the United Way, Labor, and community partners to collaborate on jointly developed programs that benefit local communities, particularly around the issues of income, education, and health;

● Building volunteer capacity for the labor movement and United Way by engaging unions and their members in community service and other opportunities;

● Connecting union members to essential services, including referring members to United Way’s 2-1-1 program, in times of need such as natural disasters and financial difficulties.

This directory contains contact information for local labor liaisons and agency staff, as well as for national AFL-CIO and United Way Worldwide staff with partnership responsibilities.

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