

FEDERAL ACTION GUIDE

2026



UNITED WAY
Larimer County

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United Way of Larimer County mobilizes the caring power of community to support the success of all children and youth in Larimer County. That's why we invest in programs and policies that build **family financial stability**, promote **kindergarten readiness**, advance **reading at grade level**, and support **high school graduation**. By focusing on these four building blocks and expanding access to opportunity, we're working to ensure that each and every child, regardless of identity or background, has the foundation they need for lifelong success.

This congressional budget season, join us in protecting the essential programs and services that families across Larimer County and Colorado rely on.

Invest In AmeriCorps

Mission Connection: Reading At Grade Level

Proposed Legislation: The FY27 President's Budget Request proposes eliminating AmeriCorps.

Why We Oppose: AmeriCorps members are the tutors for Colorado Reading Corps (CRC). Through CRC, AmeriCorps tutors have helped 574 Larimer County students improve their literacy skills. Through one-on-one support, 97% of students improved their reading skills in the past school year. If funding disappears, Poudre, Thompson, and Estes Park school district students will lose the targeted reading support they count on.

Take Action: Tell your member of Congress now to oppose the elimination of AmeriCorps in the President's budget and maintain funding levels for the program [here](#).

Fully Fund and Modernize WIC

Mission Connection: Family Financial Stability, Kindergarten Readiness

Proposed Legislation: The President's FY27 Budget Request proposes deep cuts to WIC, reducing monthly produce vouchers from \$50 to \$10 - \$13 for families. Virtual certification appointments are also slated to end this September unless legislators act to make them a permanent feature.

Why We Oppose: WIC helps low-income mothers and young children get a healthy start by providing nutritious food, breastfeeding support, and nutrition guidance.

Take Action: Tell your member of Congress now to fully fund and modernize WIC [here](#).

Invest in Child Care and Early Learning (CCDBG and Head Start)

Mission Connection: Family Financial Stability, Kindergarten Readiness, Reading at Grade Level, High School Graduation

Proposed Legislation: The House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-H) Appropriations Subcommittee is proposing a \$10 million increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Early Head Start/Head Start programs in their FY27 budget.

Why We Support: CCDBG provides critical financial support for working families with young children. Locally, CCDBG powers the Colorado Child-Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) providing childcare scholarships for low-income families.

Head Start and Early Head Start provide comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent services to children from low-income families . In Larimer County, these programs are operated by UWLC partners like La Familia and Poudre and Thompson School districts.

Together, these programs expand access to high-quality, affordable child care and give children opportunities to learn and succeed.

Take Action: Ask your member of Congress to support and maintain this increase [here](#).

Protect The Integrity of Head Start

Mission Connection: Family Financial Stability, Reading at Grade Level, High School Graduation

Proposed Legislation: The federal government proposed a rule that would dramatically change how Head Start runs, removing key parts of the program that protect families and promote financial stability and student success.

Why We Oppose: The proposed rule would cut program standards and protections that make learning safe and effective for children. From increasing class sizes and income

documentation requirements, to reducing teacher qualifications and administrative budgets, this rule threatens the integrity of the program for the more than 10,000 Colorado children who rely on it.

Take Action: Contact your Member of Congress and ask them to urge the Administration for Children and Families to withdraw the proposed rule [here](#).

Strengthen Food Security Through SNAP

Mission Connection: Financial Stability

Proposed Legislation: New federal requirements through H.R.1 will significantly increase the cost of running SNAP in Colorado. Starting in October, the state will be required to pay 75% of program costs, with additional fines for high error rates.

Why We Oppose: SNAP supports the financial stability of nearly 30,000 Larimer County neighbors who rely on it to keep food on the table. The changes could cost Colorado hundreds of millions of dollars each year, adding pressure to an already tight state budget. A longer implementation window would give Colorado more time to reduce its error rate, update its systems, and put these new federal requirements in place without disrupting food assistance for Colorado families.

Take Action: Tell your member of Congress to delay SNAP program changes for two years [here](#).

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