



90th Texas Legislative Priorities

Through collaboration with our Denton County nonprofit sector and community partners, United Way of Denton County advocates for change that enables everyone to succeed, and we want your voice to join ours. These priorities were developed in **collaboration with Denton County nonprofit organizations**, Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team, Denton County Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team, Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team, and approved by our Board of Directors.

The continuation of Denton County's strong economic productivity depends on effective education that produces a highly skilled workforce that is healthy, mentally strong, and working. Resources to help the most vulnerable 110,000 households in Denton County have been outpaced by our region's rapid growth, reducing their ability to receive the help needed to succeed.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

Jail Diversion

Denton County is seeking funding to kickstart a Mental Health Jail Diversion Center. This center would increase public safety, help connect individuals to appropriate resources, and reduce the County's related cost. This proposal is the result of cross sector collaboration among the Denton County Commissioners Court, Denton County Sheriff's Department, municipalities, Denton County judges, hospital systems, Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team, and Denton County Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Food Security

Support increased investment in SNAP administration and full funding of the state's cost-share responsibility to reduce errors, maintain access to benefits, and strengthen the economic mobility of working families. Denton County has 40,000 households enrolled in SNAP and an additional 114,180 food insecure individuals. Health and Human Services has an error rate of 9.34% requiring the state to allocate \$1.7 billion additional dollars to the federal cost share to administer SNAP.

Health and Mental Health Funding

Strengthen Texas' health and behavioral health system through targeted increases in Medicaid reimbursement and Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) funding, to ensure efficient access to care, support local providers, reduce costly crises, and help Texans achieve greater stability and self-sufficiency.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Student Success & Workforce Readiness

Support proven dropout prevention, academic achievement, and workforce readiness programs that connect education and job training, prepare students for high-demand careers, strengthen the talent pipeline, and promote long-term self-sufficiency for Texas families.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

Child Care Access

Increase the number of childcare scholarships through Texas Workforce Commission to Workforce Solutions of North Central Texas strengthens Denton County's workforce participation, reduces barriers to employment, and helps families achieve greater economic stability and upward mobility.

Transportation

Increase TxDOT funding to support DCTA service enhancements will improve access to reliable transportation for working households, helping residents connect to employment opportunities, reduce transportation barriers, and increase economic mobility across the region.