

# Government Affairs & Public Policy



UCAN is committed to impacting systems and society by advocating for policies that address the best interest of the youth and families we serve. Our focus is supported by comprehensive government strategies that include active engagement and partnerships with elected officials at virtually all levels of government. Our goal is to secure resources, build agency awareness and prioritize our youth and families to reach their power of potential.



## State of Illinois

- In a major policy announcement, Gov. J.B. Pritzker held a press conference at UCAN to sign the License to Work Act to end the suspension of driver's licenses for non-moving violations.
- Sen. Dick Durbin attended a community roundtable in collaboration with West Side United to discuss policies around improving health inequities in Chicago.
- Illinois Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton and Treasurer Michael Frerichs hosted a fireside chat to discuss an under-utilized college savings program for vulnerable populations in Illinois.
- Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul hosted a community violence roundtable discussion at UCAN that attracted guests and organizations statewide to share his statewide policy platform.
- Illinois legislators Sen. Omar Aquino, Sen. Tony Munoz, Rep. Art Turner Jr., Rep. Marcus Evans, Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, Rep. Camille Lilly and Rep. Lamont Robinson participated in informational tours at our North Lawndale campus and Western Avenue office. These visits allowed UCAN to shape and inform various legislative agendas.

## Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

- UCAN was instrumental in establishing the Standards and Practices for Pregnant and Parenting Youth, a set of procedures that guide providers statewide in coordinating services to support pregnant and parenting youth in care and their children.
- UCAN partnered with statewide juvenile justice practitioners, including Cabrini Green Legal Aid, and elected officials in support of the Children of Incarcerated Parents statewide task force.
- UCAN developed a race-informed set of principles and practice framework to integrate into DCFS' Child Welfare Core Practice and Model of Supervision that included training individual teams with specialties in placement, intact, residential and investigations on the new model; and supporting, coaching and tracking their use over nine months. This work is carried out by the CWAC Racial Equity Task Force.

## Community Partnerships



## City of Chicago

- Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot delivered a major policy announcement at UCAN about the city's new protocols to assess and collect parking and driving-related fees. She returned in a few months later to provide an update on the Chicago Public Schools teachers strike.
- UCAN closely collaborated strategic planning with the Chicago Racial Equity Rapid Response Team at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to get PPE to community residents.
- UCAN proudly participated in the Annual Gay Pride Parade, as UCAN President and CEO Zack Schrantz and other staff marched with Ill. Rep. Greg Harris and other elected officials, including Sen. Omar Aquino and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul.



## Chicago Police Department

- UCAN supported strategic efforts to improve relationships between the Chicago Police Department and communities by hosting at our Arthur L. Turner Sr. gym the championship basketball games for the Chicago Westside Police and Youth Sports Conference, the city's first police and youth sports conference.
- UCAN's Violence Intervention and Prevention Services staff provided community-focused input to the police department and city officials on developing Chicago's current cannabis policies.
- UCAN was a lead agency that facilitated community engagement forums to inform the U.S. Department of Justice federal consent decree.
- UCAN hosted a community meeting at our Nichols Center headquarters with former Interim Police Chief Charlie Beck to discuss effective public safety measures for the North Lawndale and Roseland communities.
- As a key part of UCAN's 5th Annual Youth Peace Summit, student council members met with Deputy Police Chief Ernest Cato III and Norman Livingston Kerr, director of Violence Prevention, to discuss police policies and programs, and share their thoughts on what safety means to teens and other youth.



## Testimonial

"Claude - Thanks so much for taking the time to meet with the Senate President and the Governor's policy team. Your testimony was strong, and your presence made us much stronger as a team. G-PAC is the only organization in Illinois working to elect candidates committed to protecting our families, children, and communities from gun violence." -Kathleen Sances, President and CEO, G-PAC

