When FACE 2024 was developed, we established four goals corresponding to the most critical issues Orange County faces as a community. Each goal is specific, measurable and reinforced with innovative strategies to ensure sustainable change.

Five years in, we share our wins, lessons learned and opportunities for Doing More in the areas of education, health, housing and financial stability.

Driving Change is Interconnected
To ensure that all children are successful in school, we must do more. They also need healthier food and stable homes to excel. Assisting residents to find jobs may not be enough; we must also do more to help parents earn an income that will support a family in Orange County.

We’re Working on The Solutions
At the mid-point of FACE 2024, we can be proud of our community’s results. However, we also can see where more work is needed. To continue to make a difference, we must join together to do even more.

FACE 2024 Goals 2.0
We have examined progress toward our goals at the mid-point of our 10-year plan and identified how to best focus our efforts in the next five years to maximize impact in each of the four areas.
**Foundational Work**

**EDUCATION**

**FACE 2024 GOAL**

Cut the high school dropout rate in 1/2

**FACE 2024 2.0 GOAL**

Increase the high school graduation rate to 95% among students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds

When FACE 2024 launched, over 4,000 Orange County students dropped out of high school every year. We’re proud to report that we’ve reached our goal—the high school dropout rate is cut in half.

But that is not enough! Our most underserved school districts are struggling to support their neediest students as evidenced by academic underperformance and high dropout rates.

We believe everyone should have the chance to graduate on time, so now we’re aiming for a higher goal: We will focus on closing the achievement gap for low-income students in targeted communities while raising graduation rates. In the 2017/18 school year, the graduation rate among socioeconomically disadvantaged students was 84.8%. Our goal is to increase this rate to 95%.

**HEALTH**

**FACE 2024 GOAL**

Cut the childhood obesity rate by 1/3

When FACE 2024 was developed, nearly one-third of our children were overweight or obese. Currently, one-third of our children remain overweight or obese.

Childhood obesity rates continue to climb, while many children have limited access to fresh and healthy food. We believe the Healthy Schools Initiative and other innovative program models can reverse this trend and increase more healthy meal options for Orange County children. Starting at elementary schools, we help students learn about healthy eating habits and how physical activity matters as they grow up and go through their academic journey. The program also engages families and advocates for school wellness policies.

Because of the challenges with this issue, we plan to pilot two new program models. One pilot is aimed to reduce childhood obesity rates through a city-wide model, replicating success seen in other communities. We are also pleased to pilot a second new effort to address childhood hunger and food insecurity in the Centralia School District in partnership with CLA-OC by bringing an innovative model of delivering healthy food to children in all 8 elementary schools in the district via a food truck model and an expanded kitchen. We’re excited to see how this pilot program impacts increased healthy meal options within a targeted area. As we learn from it, we plan to expand on similar models in other high-need school districts in Orange County.

**UNITED WAY IN ACTION**

5,225 underrepresented middle and high school students received academic and social support through Destination Graduation

1,335 students experienced work-based learning in our Youth Career Connections program

3 OC Schools received the national Healthy Schools designation after just one year in our program

4,195 elementary students in our Healthy Schools Initiative enjoyed guided physical activity

Ensuring Orange County students read early so they are ready to learn.

Studies say that reading proficiency in third grade is an indicator of high school graduation rates. We promote early-grade reading through OC Reads, a collaboration with the Orange County Community Foundation and First 5 Orange County, Children & Families Commission, which improves skills and encourages parent and caregiver involvement. And volunteers lend extra support to young readers through our online tutoring programs. Because a better education can lead to a better life.

Helping more people get access to nutritious and affordable food

Because wholesome food is essential for good health.

Even here in Orange County, we have food deserts where residents can’t find quality produce and wholesome options within their means. Our Healthy Food Provision and Child Hunger Reduction efforts partner with local food banks, school and community pantries and farmers markets to distribute affordable fresh fruits and vegetables and works to bring innovative models to bear in Orange County that help to reduce childhood hunger through the increased provision of healthy foods in more efficient and streamlined ways. We look forward to piloting the two new program models to reduce childhood hunger with the CEO Leadership Alliance of Orange County (CLA-OC) and reduce childhood obesity rates through city specific program models. Because a full stomach with healthy food is vital for optimal living.
**Housing**

**FACE 2024 Goal**

Cut the percentage of homeless and housing-insecure children in 1/2

**FACE 2024.0 Goal**

Reduce the number of homeless families to FUNCTIONAL ZERO

In the beginning of FACE 2024, we set a goal to cut the percentage of homeless and housing-insecure children in half.

Today, we face limitations in available data sources to count and track our community's homeless families. As a result, the baseline for our housing goal will be established when the Point-In-Time Count Report is available in May 2019.

We remain focused on providing homeless prevention services and stable housing for families with young children through rapid re-housing programs. And we’ll continue to support and advocate for the development of better data sources to monitor the number of homeless families.

**UNITED WAY IN ACTION**

- 83 families moved into permanent housing thanks to United Way Rapid Re-Housing
- 268 families received financial coaching and supportive services to stabilize their housing

**Income**

**FACE 2024 Goal**

Reduce the percentage of financially unstable families by 25%

**FACE 2024.0 Goal**

Reduce family financial instability by another 25%

In the early days of FACE 2024, 41% of our neighborhoods had a high concentration of families living in financially unstable circumstances. Today, 26% have a high concentration of financially unstable families.

We’re proud to report that we’ve reached our goal—the percentage of financially unstable families has been reduced by 25%. But more work is needed, especially in cities such as Anaheim, La Habra, Santa Ana, Stanton and Westminster.

In the next five years, we will expand our programs in cities and schools with the highest concentration of family financial instability. Programs including SparkPoint in Schools and UpSkill OC complement one another, addressing the challenges of scarcity of affordable housing and the need for sustainable wages alongside the opportunity to increase financial literacy skills.

**UNITED WAY IN ACTION**

- 19,000 OC taxpayers served, bringing $16 million in refunds and over $4.5 million in EITC, saving our community over $4 million in tax preparation-related fees
- SparkPoint OC opened our new financial empowerment center at Washington Elementary School, our first in Santa Ana

**Assisting low-income working families to collect their tax refunds and credits.**

Not all taxpayers are aware that they may qualify to receive money back when they file. Our OC Free Tax Prep coalition provides education and assistance to our community on tax benefits they can access. Because helping community members access the funds and financial assistance they’ve earned is good for them, their families and our local economy.
LET’S JOIN TOGETHER TO CONTINUE DOING MORE

Contact us at FACE2024@UnitedWayOC.org