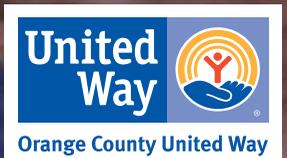


ORANGE COUNTY'S FACE 2024 REPORT

Community
Scorecard:
2019-2020

20



UNITED IN RESPONSE, UNITED TO DO MORE

When this report was last published, Orange County was just beginning to understand the implications of the 2020 health crisis. With a full year of the pandemic behind us, we have a better idea of what our community has been through—and the challenges ahead.

We now understand that our most vulnerable individuals and families were hit the hardest. Our neighbors with the greatest needs are struggling because their obstacles grew taller and the gaps they face across all aspects of life grew wider. We know that children who are hungry, who don't have adequate internet access or a stable home cannot learn. And caregivers who can't work, can't support a family. These issues snowballed in 2020.

Community members, corporate partners and coalitions joined us to respond with urgency and innovation. We pivoted strategies and programs nearly instantly. Today, it's clearer than ever that United Way's work is more relevant and more essential for Orange County.

Progress, Together

This annual scorecard reports community progress toward reaching next-level outcomes in the areas of education, health, housing and financial stability as defined by our FACE 2024 2.0 strategic plan.

Orange County United Way's three core initiatives drive this advancement:



United to End Homelessness

We're ending homelessness in Orange County for good.



United for Student Success

We're ensuring all Orange County students graduate prepared for college, career and beyond.



United for Financial Security

We're putting families on the path from surviving to thriving.

Also, fundamentally our work has always been about opportunity and access. As we pursue our community's goals, we continue to focus on intentionally removing barriers and leveling the playing field for all.

United for Pandemic Relief

No report on last year would be complete without recapping the heroic and unified actions of our community to help one another during the pandemic. With the energy and resources of our community and partners, United Way was able to bring relief to neighbors and local workers immediately, and our programs and initiatives continue to support individuals and families throughout the county.

Orange County United Way Pandemic Relief Fund provided*

\$4.1 MILLION
to support our community's most vulnerable



HOMELESS PREVENTION FUNDS TO 6,078 FAMILIES
each received a \$500 emergency debit card to help with food, rent, utilities and basic needs



50,000
people received food assistance



BOOKS FOR CHILDREN
from low-income families and technology for high school students



30,000
face masks and PPE for frontline workers, including 15 pallets of hand sanitizer



* Data for January–December 2020

WE'RE PROUD OF THIS UNITED RESPONSE. AND WE'RE ACUTELY AWARE THAT OUR WORK IS NOT FINISHED AS LONG AS SO MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS STILL NEED OUR HELP.



Watch the Latest Scorecard Videos

Learn more about Orange County's community progress in each area.



Housing



Education and Health



Income

EDUCATION

FACE 2024 2.0 GOAL

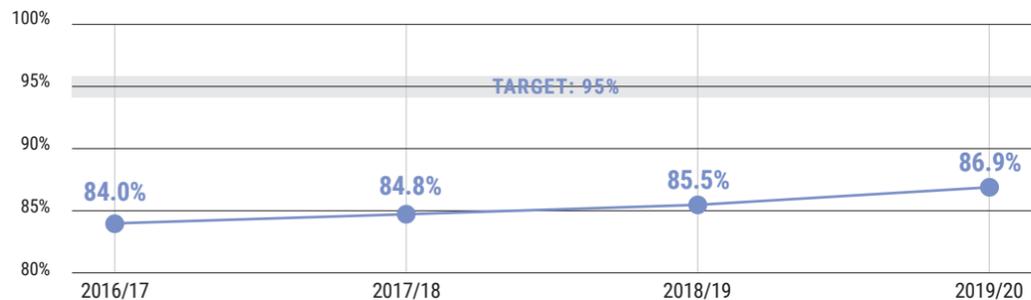
Increase the high school graduation rate to 95% among students from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds

THE PROGRESS



We believe all students should have access to quality education and the opportunity to graduate on time, ready for college and careers, and prepared for life. In the last four years, Orange County has made steady progress in improving the high school graduation rate.

However, we are concerned that the challenges of the pandemic—which we know have been more consequential for students from our underserved student population—will result in less-favorable results. The 2019–2020 data effectively represents progress “before” the public health crisis. Next year, we may see the adverse effects of reduced learning opportunities, the digital divide and the greater burden these students carry in households with fewer means to support not only their academics, but also their overall health and wellbeing.



Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest, 2020. A student is considered socioeconomically disadvantaged if they are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals and neither of the student’s parents received a high school diploma.

Although schools worked tirelessly to support at-home learning during the pandemic, our underserved students and their families are still struggling. A significant segment of our community and our future workforce is at risk of being left behind. Our work to bring equitable educational opportunities and recovery support will be essential to prepare students for college, careers and beyond.

UNITED WAY IN ACTION

5,618 underrepresented middle and high school students received academic and social support through our Destination Graduation program

2,939 students experienced work-based learning in our Youth Career Connections program

18,000 hours of academic tutoring

NEW CLASS OF 2021 PROGRAM supported 300 OC high school seniors from underserved neighborhoods to stay on track for graduation by pairing them with a professional mentor to provide academic, emotional and life skills support

Foundational Work: Early Grade Reading Efforts

Because a better education can lead to a better life. We’re ensuring Orange County students learn to read early so they’re ready to learn.

11,000 children’s books collected and distributed in the community

415 community partners

5,000 backpack and school supplies distributed

HEALTH

FACE 2024 2.0 GOAL **NEW GOAL**

Increase the number of Healthy Schools in Orange County to 50, with 43 of these being Title I schools

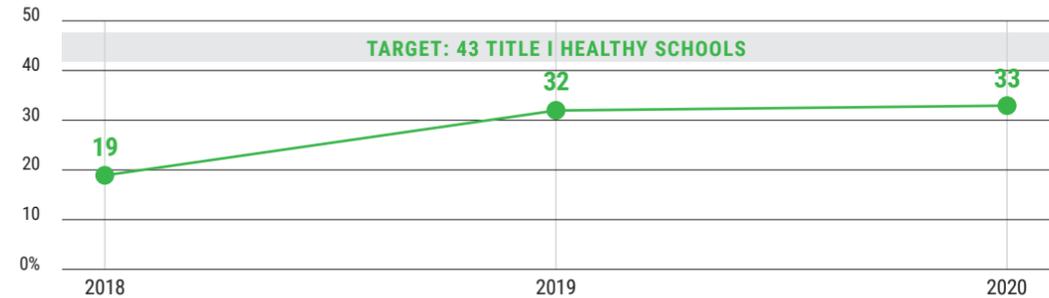
THE PROGRESS



Our United for Student Success initiative incorporates inter-related aspects that focus on promoting a culture of health in our school communities. We believe a healthy student is educated, engaged and supported mentally, physically and emotionally throughout their education journey.

Our previous goal centered on reducing childhood obesity rates and relied on California Department of Education data. These statistics are no longer available (schools are not required to capture/report this information), so we’ve created a new target reflecting a more holistic measurement of student success.

Our revised goal is to increase the number of Healthy Schools* in Orange County, focusing on Title I schools in low-income areas that receive supplemental federal funding. Since 2018, 37 schools in our county have been named Healthy Schools; 33 of these are Title I Healthy Schools. Our plan is to gain 13 additional Healthy Schools, with 10 of these being Title I.



Source: Alliance for a Healthier Generation, 2021

To help our community reach this goal, we’re expanding programs that support children’s physical, mental, social and emotional health. Now more than ever, it’s critical to ensure healthy and safe learning environments for our students, faculty and their families.

UNITED WAY IN ACTION

4 National Healthy School Award Winners Gold: Walnut Elementary / Silver: Pacific Drive Elementary, Paul Revere Elementary and Whitaker Elementary (all are Title 1 schools)

4,569 elementary students and parents from our Healthy Schools Initiative enjoyed guided physical activities and nutrition education

* A national recognition from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Foundational Work: School-based Healthy Food Provision

Because a full stomach with healthy food is vital for optimal living. We’re helping children and their families get access to nutritious and affordable food.

53,622 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables distributed

6,164 meals distributed via food truck

HOUSING

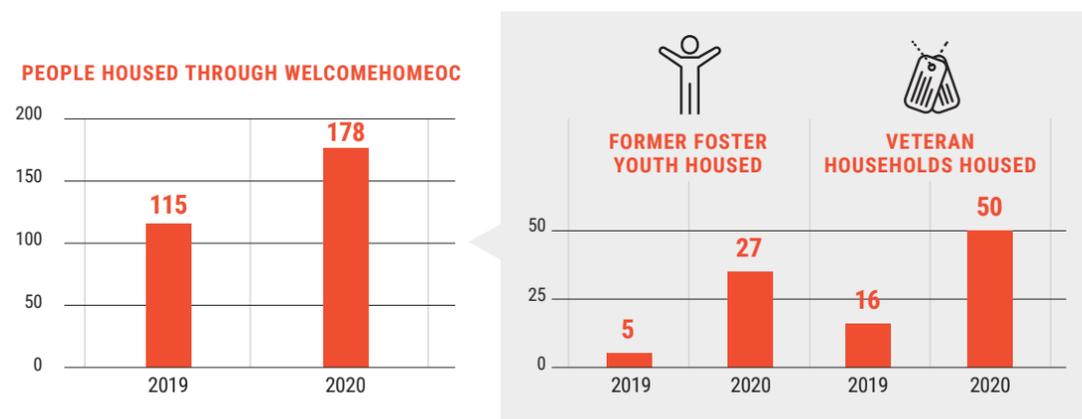
FACE 2024 2.0 GOAL

End homelessness by achieving functional zero within targeted populations

We will reach our functional zero goal when the availability of services and resources to support homelessness in our community matches or exceeds the demand for them. We are not there yet.

We measure our progress using data from the annual Point in Time Count. In 2019, the count indicated that 6,860 people were without a home and nearly 4,000 were unsheltered. Due to the pandemic, a comprehensive 2021 count was not possible.

However, Orange County United Way and our aligned programs made headway toward our goal to help local families, veterans and people with disabilities, among others, find a place to call home despite the health crisis.



WelcomeHomeOC continues to help place people with a housing voucher in apartments and provide support to maintain their housing. Property owners receive financial incentives (security deposits and other assurances) to encourage them to rent to these individuals and families. In tandem, we advocate for more permanent supportive housing with the help of our Housing Champions. Together, these efforts take short- and long-term action to end homelessness in our community.

UNITED WAY IN ACTION

178 housed through WelcomeHomeOC (almost double compared to the program's first year)

64 property owners joined our WelcomeHomeOC network

202 new, affordable housing units, including 41 permanent supportive housing units, were approved

Foundational Work: Public Awareness and Advocacy

Because everyone should have a place to call home. We're changing hearts and minds and engaging our community to help end homelessness in OC.

6,722 people attended our virtual informational sessions about homelessness

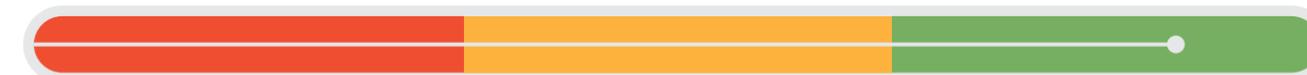
130 Housing Champions were trained and engaged

INCOME

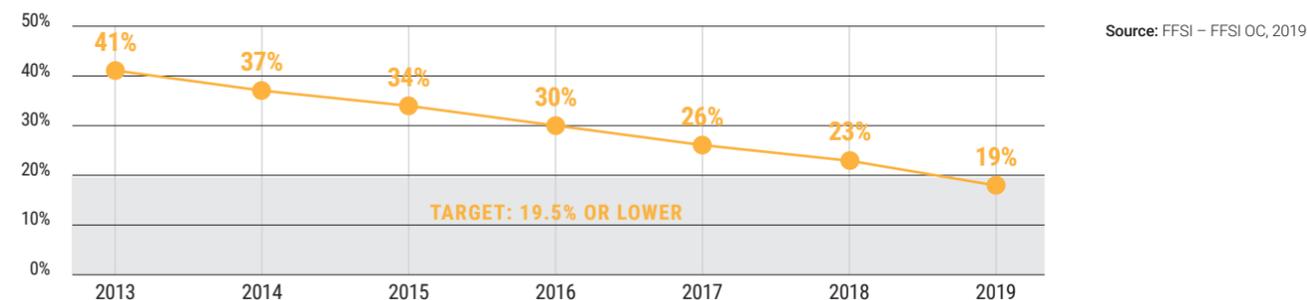
FACE 2024 2.0 GOAL

Reduce family financial instability by another 25%

THE PROGRESS



While progress in this area is positive, gains in financial stability are likely to be temporary as they reflect pre-COVID conditions. In 2020, we know many individuals and families in Orange County experienced (or were at great risk for) rent burden, unemployment/underemployment and a strained household income.



Our UpSkill OC program is an important opportunity to advance on this issue and increase financial stability for families. UpSkill OC addresses the skills gap for middle-skill jobs (positions that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree) with training and support. At the same time, it partners with local businesses to directly connect employers who need to fill thousands of open, middle-skill jobs with qualified candidates.

Programs like this are key to reaching the United for Financial Security initiative goal. When residents make enough through better-paying jobs, they can afford housing, support their families and be on the path to long-term careers and financial stability.

UNITED WAY IN ACTION

14,200 people served by OC Free Tax Prep during the 2020 tax season

163 families became housed with better financial stability through our SparkPoint OC program

60 individuals benefited from UpSkill OC workforce development workshops and seminars

Foundational Work: Emergency Food and Shelter, Healthcare Assistance

Because helping people access benefits they're eligible for is good for them, their families and our entire community. We're helping local individuals access health coverage and avoid hunger and housing insecurity.

291 clients helped to enroll in Covered California healthcare plans

1,369 people received rental assistance through the OC Emergency Food and Shelter Program (managed by United Way)

UNITED IN OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Orange County United Way stands for equity and justice. Together with our stakeholders, we work actively and collaboratively to ensure inclusive opportunities and non-discriminatory access to education, health, financial security and housing for every person in our community.

We envision an inclusive, responsive and equitable Orange County.



View our Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement



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UnitedWayOC.org