

The following statements summarize the main strategies from all of the community forums conducted by United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta in September and October 2008. There were eight forums held across the region to discuss the most critical issues surrounding education, income and health in our region.

**Coordination and Access:** Increase service coordination/improving provider training and technical assistance/increasing consumer knowledge of existing services and resources

Health:

Funder collaboration, access to transportation, education on health related issues, neighborhood health based clinic services, improve mental health access, promote healthy lifestyles, and health agencies partner with schools

Income:

Increase /accessible/affordable transportation, collaboration, life skills training, job readiness, on-site childcare, community resource centers, and increase scholarship/apprenticeships, financial literacy

Education:

Professional development, community support, increase literacy, collaboration with technical colleges, empower parents/parent involvement, provide non-monetary support to local agencies, quality family life, resource website for grades k-12/2-1-1 type directory for local resources, develop community learning based centers, and organize volunteers

**Public Will:** Increasing public education & engagement/ policy maker education and outreach/ issues (local, state and federal)

Health:

Provide education opportunities on preventative health strategies, policy/policy change, publicize available resources, extending health education beyond 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and national/universal health care coverage

Income:

Career Resource Centers, affordable housing, increase minimum wage

Education:

Public Awareness, advocacy techniques, parent involvement/leadership/accountability, mentorship programs, increase scholarships, incentives for ECE teachers, teacher recruitment , upgrade public transportation, recruit more volunteers to help out in schools, policy changes to help at-risk schools/Title 1 VIP curriculum

**Service Delivery:** Maintaining or expanding service delivery capacity

Health:

Build youth community centers, health awareness classes, in-home and mobile services, ensure all after school programs have psychical education activities, expand weekly free clinics

Income:

Homeownership programs, accessible mass transit, self-sufficiency workshops, economic and job development, mobile van system, mentoring programs, affordable child care, life skills, workforce development, public/private partnerships to sponsor slots at early centers, job readiness, and advocate for affordable housing

Education:

Advocate for safe accessible public transportation, increase accredited programs for child care, provide extension classes for special needs students – learning disabilities and language barriers, more volunteers as tutors, parent accountability more volunteers as tutors, parent accountability, nutrition focus curriculum, and offer more parent resources