For six years, Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP) fought to get full Medicaid expansion passed by the legislature. In 2018 UHPP tried a different approach and took the issue to the people of Utah through a ballot initiative. The process was long and hard, but in the end, years of polling data proved correct. On November 6, 2018, Proposition 3 was victorious, winning by 69,220 votes, with the highest margin of victory of the four initiatives on the ballot.

Leading the charge on Proposition 3 was the highlight of the year. UHPP organized a grassroots volunteer network that exceeded expectations - doubling the volunteer signature gathering goal and making thousands of calls to potential voters. UHPP spent the year organizing and attending events, giving presentations, and spreading the Medicaid expansion message as far as possible.

Proposition 3 passed with **53%** of the vote, and in **59%** of house and senate districts
- Gathered **147,280** total verified signatures, doubling our volunteer goal
- Added **15,000** names to the UHPP supporter database
- Participated in more than **80** events
- Gave **30** presentations or speeches
- Sent **50** Action alerts & volunteer updates
- Featured in **100** articles quoting the UHPP team
- Added **63** new consumer stories to database
- Published **21** opinion pieces

UHPP was a leading policy voice in support of Proposition 3, and its expertise on this issue was central to the media narrative. UHPP held numerous press events and connected dozens of consumers with reporters. A wide range of outlets quoted members of the UHPP team including The New Yorker, The New York Times, and NowThis News. Additionally, The Deseret News and Salt Lake Tribune both endorsed full Medicaid expansion, which was in part due to UHPP’s efforts.

UHPP’s consumer-centric mission was ever-present in the coverage of the issue, and that contributed to victory on Election Day. The work that UHPP does centers on consumers, and consumer stories continue to play a vital role in UHPP’s policy work. UHPP relies on the daily interactions of its enrollment staff to inform and help UHPP be effective consumer advocates when promoting or opposing health policy issues. In 2018, UHPP ramped up its story collection efforts and added 63 new consumer stories to its database.
Take Care Utah (TCU) prides itself on helping with complicated, time-consuming cases. This includes mixed-status families, individuals with complex needs, and those with cultural or language barriers keeping them from accessing care.

TCU plays a case management role by making sure people get insured and stay insured. TCU actively stays in touch with everyone they serve after the initial enrollment to offer assistance with re-enrollment or re-certification and to assist them with any questions they may have. In other words, TCU’s services do not end with enrollment. TCU actively connects with individuals to make sure they do not just sign up for health insurance, but access care. Being one of the first programs of its type across the nation to implement this follow-up work, TCU became a national model for these “coverage to care” services.

BY THE NUMBERS

UHPP’s Health Access Assisters helped 683 people apply for health insurance through the Marketplace.

UHPP’s Health Access Assisters helped 3,300 people apply for Medicaid programs.

Take Care Utah reached over 10,000 people through phone calls, presentations, media events, and outreach events.

194,813 Utahns enrolled in ACA coverage in 2018, slightly higher than in

In 2018, the federal government severely reduced navigator funding. While most navigator programs across the nation decided to close their doors, UHPP forged a new path forward to sustain Take Care Utah. After a change of licensure, certification, and funding structure, UHPP’s enrollment staff is now bigger than ever.

With eight years of outreach and enrollment experience, thousands of Utahns now depend on TCU’s services.

TCU organized its third annual Hispanic Heritage Parade and Street Festival. This event serves to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, raise awareness of Utah having the highest uninsured rate for Hispanic kids in the nation, and to help TCU become a well-known resource for the Hispanic Community. The event attracted over 10,000 people.
A Message from UHPP’s Executive Director

Dear UHPP Supporter,

Without your support we simply wouldn’t be where we are today. Through Proposition 3, thousands of Utahns now have access to Medicaid and life saving health care. After rebuilding Take Care Utah, our health care access assister staff is bigger than ever. I was honored to accept a national award in Washington, DC in recognition of this work we have accomplished together.

Know that we are changing the community we live in for the better, but there is more work to be done.

To keep up the momentum, UHPP needs your support.

In solidarity,

Matt Slonaker

P.S. Please note UHPP’s new address below. We moved to a larger location that better fits our growing staff. Come by and say hello!

Send donations to: https://www.mightycause.com/organization/Utah-Health-Policy-Project

or

Utah Health Policy Project
2369 West Orton Circle, Suite 20
West Valley City, UT 84119

*2018 represented a transitional year as UHPP sought out new funding sources that were not put into place until 2019; 2019 is expected to have significantly higher gross and net income.