

# Annual Report 2021



## Utah Health Policy Project



# Executive Director's Message:



*UHPP Supporters,*

*Thanks for your support over the years! Among our many victories we can count full Medicaid expansion in Utah and the establishment of Take Care Utah, a health care assistance program that serves thousands of underserved Utahns. You'll be glad to know UHPP met the moment and enlisted our staff in a robust Covid-19 vaccine outreach and education response. We changed minds and got shots in arms!*

*You will also be glad to know we are safely back to serving our community in-person. Remote appointments are still a great option for many folks, but, as always, we prefer to meet people where they are. UHPP's policy team is working tirelessly with stakeholders to extend health care to all children in Utah.*

*In solidarity,*

*Matt Slonaker*

# Financials:

Income Type	2020	2021
Foundation Grants	\$286,915.00	\$1,451,992.39
Government Grants	\$769,062.51	\$1,019,510.56
Corporate Donations	\$18,755.00	\$35,438.84
Individual Donations	\$3,791.90	\$1,806.68
Contracts	\$250,343.37	\$190,755.29
Broker Commissions	\$68,706.43	\$59,072.61
Other Income	\$2,281.64	\$4,018.29
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,399,855.85</b>	<b>\$2,762,594.66</b>



# By The Numbers:

- UHPP's Health Access Assisters helped **470** people apply for health insurance through the Marketplace.
- UHPP's Health Access Assisters helped **6,119** people apply for Medicaid programs.
- Take Care Utah reached over **38,499** people through phone calls, presentations, media events, and outreach events, and specifically assisted **4,494** people with vaccine information.
- **207,911** Utahns enrolled in ACA coverage in 2020, slightly higher than in 2019.
- **2,347** of all 2020 applications were for the Targeted Medicaid Program (TAM), making up **78%** of enrollment for the year.



# Take Care Utah Update:

Take Care Utah (TCU) prides itself on helping with complex, sensitive, and time-consuming coverage cases. Often-times this includes assisting mixed-status families, individuals with complex care needs, and those with cultural or language barriers keeping them from accessing care. TCU Health Access Assisters act as advocates for all clients seeking coverage, from the application step to finding primary care or vaccines. Health Access Assisters build trusted relationships with clients and reconnect for assistance with re-certification for coverage every year. In other words, TCU's services do not end with enrollment. TCU proactively connects with individuals to not only be sure they get covered, but fully understand how to access and use coverage benefits. 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.

TCU continues to serve Utah's most vulnerable populations, such as, individuals involved in the criminal justice system, those experiencing homelessness or individuals with behavioral health needs. TCU has seen immense growth in the Health Access Assister team as well as geographic reach of services. TCU has established ongoing enrollment partnerships in Ogden, Davis, Weber, and Wasatch County areas this past year, to provide weekly enrollment outreach and services. TCU has added to its staff team, community enrollment partnerships, and overall programmatic growth is happy to celebrate a 53% growth in Medicaid application assistance this year. Looking toward the next year, TCU will host its annual Hispanic Heritage and Parade festival. Not only does this event draw our communities out in celebration of culture, food, and dancing, but this event is to raise awareness of Utah's high rate of uninsured Hispanic children.



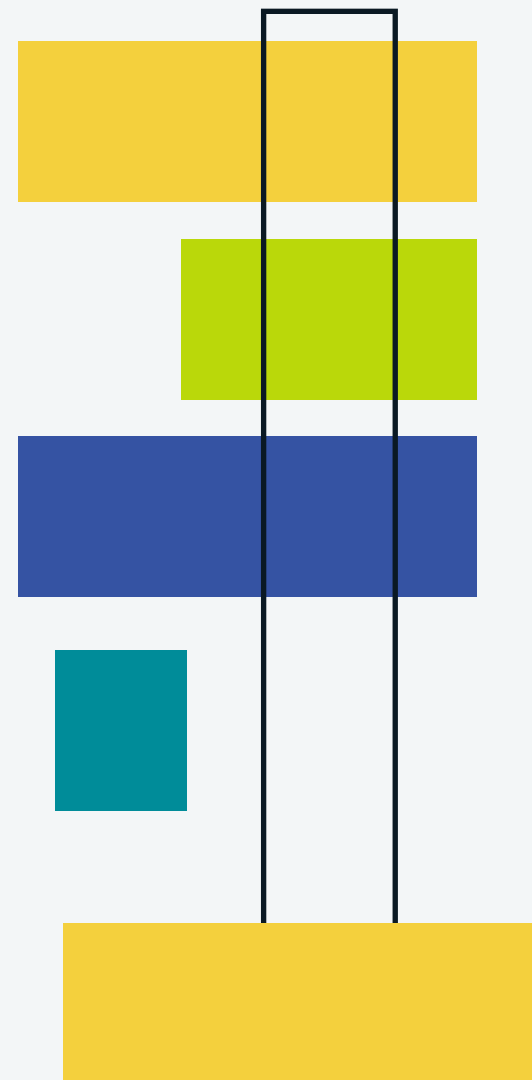
# Policy Update:

In 2021, Utah Health Policy Project continued to meet the moment, and added COVID-19 vaccine promotion to our portfolio of policy work. Through partnerships with the CDC Foundation and Community Catalyst, we worked on community education, events, training messengers, and getting shots in arms! Our team reached thousands of Utahns and increased vaccine acceptance in our communities. This work is ongoing into 2022.

During the legislative session, UHPP championed many successful bills like HB206, which made epi-pens more affordable; HB262, which added outreach funding to promote children’s health insurance; and SB63, which added compensation options for some family caregivers. We also worked hard on bills that would be revisited in 2022, like the Overdose Reduction Workgroup, Diabetes Prevention Program, Family Planning Services, and the Cover All Kids proposal. Much of the session’s work was building momentum for long-term policy strategies.

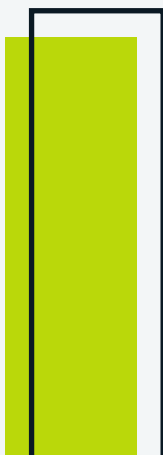
Over the interim, UHPP led out on perinatal health policy advocacy, including crafting Utah’s “Momnibus” plan to extend coverage to more low-income pregnant people, as well as prolonging postpartum coverage to a full year. This proposal is

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gaining momentum, with a strong coalition of support, and a growing body of research to support the policies proposed.

UHPP continued to elevate the issue of uninsured children through advocacy for continuous coverage, coverage for undocumented children, and reduced barriers to care for all Utah kids, including those in rural areas of the state. We worked closely with our partners in the 100% Kids Covered Coalition, as well as organizations in the Equitable Coverage Committee and Health Care Roundtable to brainstorm solutions large and small to help get more kids covered. While progress has been made, much work remains to implement policy solutions to help protect our families.



# Who Are We?



**Julie Sotelo**  
**TCU Manager**

Without a background & knowledge in healthcare system, UHPP gave me the opportunity to learn & have a wide-open perspective on healthcare and how the communities are affected by the disparities. It helped me to grow my desires of helping underserved people. It has been a stepstone in my development. I've learned many things through the years. The UHPP team is like a family. Even though things are changing, the group are holding hands to maintain this union between the team. One of the keys to succeed on providing better service is a relationship & connection between the team.



**Daryl Herrschaft**  
**TCU Manager**

UHPP combines a dedicated, collaborative staff with a mission to help underserved Utahns. It gives me the opportunity to meld my professional interests and personal passion for helping others.



**Sarah Leetham**  
**TCU Manager**

UHPP breaks barriers to health access and is a state leader in health improvement and equity. These are personal motivators for me and keep me invigorated in UHPP's mission and service!



**Peyton Thomas**  
**Community Org.**

I like working with UHPP because we use real life, on the ground, experiences to help support policies that create positive change that will truly affect people's lives. I enjoy working in collaboration with different partner organizations and coworkers that envision a better Utah.



**Dajhana Sudbury**  
**Community Org.**

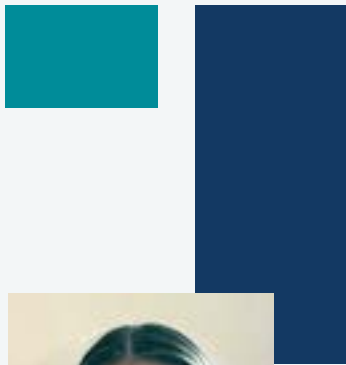
Working at UHPP is like being myself with all my virtues and flaws. My coworkers are my second family for me. I can express my thoughts and ask some dumb questions sometimes, and they made me feel like I am the best at what I do. Together we came up with the best ideas and strategies to serve our community. Especially women in all stages of their life. Like for example pregnant women, divorced women, widow women, college women, and mature women. I picked up this population because I think I am the best at it. And because of my background as an OBGYN in my country I can understand the situations better. As well as an Immigrant, divorced mom, native Spanish speaker and overall, a great human being.





**Matt Slonaker**  
**Executive Director**

When you work at UHPP you get to see things happen. You see team members learn, grow, and meet their full potential. You see the consequential impact they have on the lives of the individuals and families they serve. UHPP is an organization that thinks big and does not shy away from taking on difficult challenges. The aim is to solve dilemmas at their root cause and UHPP has a track record of doing just that.



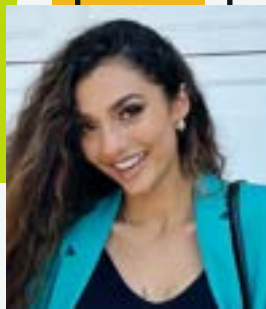
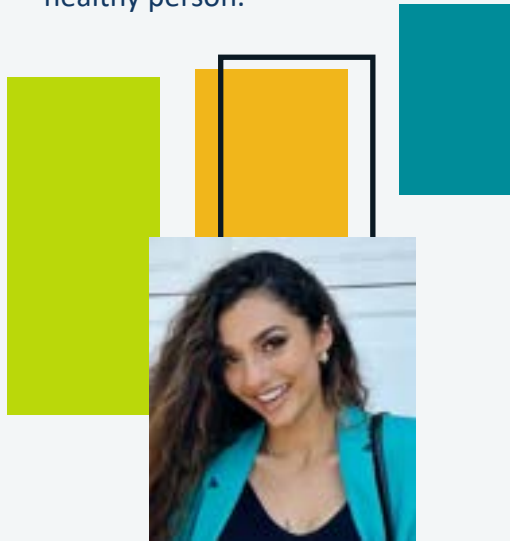
**Leigh Taylor**  
**Ops Coordinator**

I like working at UHPP because it continually expands its services by breaking down policy barriers and cultivating partnerships and relationships with Utah's communities, increasing the number of people who can receive necessary health insurance. On a personal level, I love working with like-minded, passionate, and caring individuals who advocate for others, ultimately creating a great working environment.



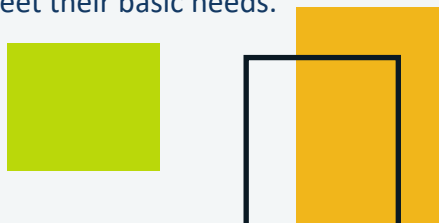
**DeLacy Healey**  
**Operations & Finance Dir.**

I work at UHPP to use my skills to make this world a more equitable place. I feel honored to be with this team, this mission, and this Executive Director. I have not had the opportunity before now to work in such a passionate, diverse, & considerate team. Each team member is dedicated to helping other people, from their core, & this makes working here a privilege. I hope to see UHPP increase oral health equity and mental health awareness as two parts of three, making up a whole and healthy person.



**Mariam Nalbandyan**  
**Ghazaryan**  
**Community Org.**

Growing up in Spain, health care was for free and I never had issues accessing health care. I still have a hard time understanding and accepting how hard it is for some families to have such a basic need being taking care of. I want to be a relief and a place of resource for those families. Help those who need the most help meet their basic needs.



**Ryan Jackson**  
**TCU Director**

In a changing world full of so many trials and conflicts, I choose to work to help others find hope. At UHPP, we work as a team to help so many people who need help navigating the complex world of health insurance. I experienced accidents and injuries which would have devastated my family if we hadn't been insured and I have seen dear friends lose everything in similar circumstances due to lack of insurance. Individuals and families should never have to choose between food, shelter, and medical care and that is why I work to help them and advocate for programs that will protect them.



**Daniel Sloan**  
**Health Policy Analyst**

The work UHPP does is crucial in helping underserved Utahns have access to health care. I enjoy working with UHPP in the policy realm because I believe that UHPP has an important and respected voice within our community that can help alleviate some of the difficulties many Utahns face in receiving affordable, high-quality health coverage. I also enjoy how friendly and committed everyone at UHPP is in helping serve our community.



**Jude Schmid**

**Health Access Assister**

My whole working career has been focused on 'leveling the playing field' for underserved youth and families. Working at UHPP allows me to continue that working by helping people gain access to the healthcare that best suits their needs and circumstances.



**Jen Maddix**

**Health Access Assister**

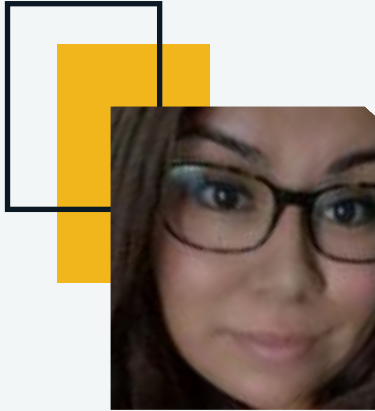
I like working at UHPP because we help our community gain access to healthcare. I feel that everyone we work with is amazing and really cares about serving our community.



**Cecilia Armaza**

**Health Access Assister**

Working at UHPP is working to be a winner every day. Is to make a difference in our life clients, and the blessing to impact someone's life in a positive way. That is why I work here at UHPP. (not every day is the same day here :))



**Anna Diaz**

**Health Access Assister**

UHPP doesn't only represent a non-profit organization, we also represent our underserved and uninsured community members in Utah. We advocate for those that aren't sure of what health insurance is and how it works. I love being a part of UHPP for many reasons but the main one is for its mission on helping families receive and get their right to health insurance, something that should be an equal opportunity and human right.



**John Hammer**

**Health Access Assister**

I really enjoy Utah Health Policy Project so far. Just being able to help people receive urgent healthcare, is satisfaction enough to work here. The smiles of clients makes the hard work all worth it. So, conversing with fellow employees, also, is very helpful and good to get other's opinions on care! I like working here because being knowledgeable about Medicaid, CHIP and the ACA is so helpful for me to help out my family and friends. I like working here because I can help people better when they are sick.



**Tatiana Pryor**

**Health Access Assister**

Healthcare is a human right and UHPP helps people access happier and healthier lives. I love working with UHPP because public health is very important to me, and I want to improve Utah's quality of life. Our team is so passionate about equitable care for people in need, it really inspires me to work with everyone in the community.



**Natalie Cha**

**Health Access Assister**

I work at UHPP because I believe in its mission to create sustainable health care solutions for Utahns. The health care system is unnecessarily complicated to navigate, and it is my honor to be part of a passionate team that can demystify health insurance for folks and advocate for them.



**Jordan Hammon**

**Health Access Assister**

I like working at UHPP because I feel like I am genuinely serving the community and that my work has an impact. I also enjoy the freedom the job allows and the fact that every day is different. Going to different sites and community events keeps the job engaging and allows me to interact with a wild variety of people.



**Kaylene Affleck**

**Health Access Assister**

I work here because it's nice to know that what we do helps take some weight from peoples backs who may be struggling. At UHPP we have values of helping people that really need it, and directly targeting individuals that are underserved.



**Danika Rogers**

**Health Access Assister**

I enjoy working at UHPP because we aim to provide access to affordable healthcare to underserved Utahns. By getting individuals access to healthcare we improve their quality of life physically and mentally. I also love that UHPP is involved in the legislative session to help ensure underserved Utahns maintain their rights and to pass bills to expand those rights. It is empowering to see the impact UHPP has on underserved individuals in the state.



**Ciara Mao**

**Health Access Assister**

I really enjoy working at UHPP because I am continuously learning about health policy, community partners, and other resources throughout Utah. Navigating the healthcare system can be really difficult and it makes me happy to be able to serve such a diverse population in my community.



**Shawnica Sanders**

**Health Access Assister**

I enjoy working with UHPP because of the message we spread and the work we engage in! Working for UHPP means that you're changing peoples lives every single day. The work each and every one of us do is remarkable. UHPP is the forefront of change for health policy and advocacy. I am more than grateful for the opportunity I have been given by being employed by the company.



**Oasis Perez**

**Health Access Assister**

I enjoy working at UHPP because I'm able to empower marginalized communities by providing services and resources.



**Mona Taha**

**Health Access Assister**

Working at UHPP is very rewarding, people around the office create such a positive energy and are willing to help in many ways. Seeing my clients getting the coverage they need to improve their health is very important. also, I like to work with UHPP because of the free help they offer to our clients who need the services we have.



**Elim Schmidt**

**Health Access Assister**

I work at UHPP because I want to be able to help people. I believe that access to healthcare is one of the most influential aspects of any of our lives. Everybody at some point will struggle with their health, however only a portion of those people will be able to receive the help that they need. I'm grateful that I've been given the opportunity and the tools needed to help my community and those I love to ensure that they may be healthy enough to live the life they deserve.



# To get involved:



## Send donations to:

[https://www.mightycause.com/organization/  
Utah-Health-Policy-Project](https://www.mightycause.com/organization/Utah-Health-Policy-Project)

- or -

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

[healthpolicyproject.org](http://healthpolicyproject.org)