

THE UNITED COUNCIL ON WELFARE FRAUD

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025-2026**





UNITED COUNCIL ON WELFARE FRAUD

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First, I want to thank the UCOWF Board of Directors for nominating me to be the 48th President of UCOWF. I am deeply honored and grateful for your trust and support as we navigate this journey together. I want to thank all that volunteer to serve on the board of directors. I appreciate your passion, dedication and time commitment. Ever since I've become actively involved in UCOWF, we as an organization have talked about wanting to have more influence in Washington DC with the policy makers and lawmakers.

As a leader in the field, UCOWF has also engaged with policymakers to advocate for legislative measures that strengthen the legal framework surrounding welfare programs and improve the tools available to combat fraud effectively. Leveraging the real-world experiences of its members for facts about fraud and the in-house talents it possesses, UCOWF continually refines fraud-fighting strategies it promotes to policymakers and national lawmakers.

The UCOWF Intergovernmental Board identifies pending changes in public assistance program policies under consideration by federal public assistance program administrators and reports those pending policy changes to our members. This allows members to analyze the impact policy changes may have and develop recommended solutions to problems that can be shared with all states through our member networks and social media.

Since becoming the UCOWF President in September 2025, I have had many conversations with Vice President Greg Matthews and our Intergovernmental Board chairs, Dawn Royal, Andy McClenahan about what UCOWF is doing and what we can do to strengthen our visibility, influence & stature among key decision makers on Capitol Hill, the Executive Branch and relevant stake holders.

In January 2026, after much discussion, the UCOWF Board of Directors agreed to hire Dan Boston, Advocate and President of Health Policy Source, and his team to help UCOWF overcome what appears to be a stagnant phase by instead of relying solely on the availability of individual board members, UCOWF will have a dedicated presence in DC to monitor legislative cycles 24/7.

Dan has been able to secure meetings with CMS and Capitol Hill staff which helps UCOWF establish lines of communication and turn that communication into actionable policy. This past May, Dan also secured a meeting with the White House Fraud Task Force. This was a major milestone for UCOWF's leadership and an opportunity to report what are members, boots on the ground, are seeing and make suggestions on how to improve program integrity.

To all UCOWF members that attended our most recent Tulsa National Training Conference, thank you! It was a wonderful turn-out and the feedback from our guests and speakers was remarkable. We had a variety of trainings, coming from Counties, States, and our Federal Government partners, involving everything from case studies, social media investigations to how to succeed with your ADH and EBT account takeover. We hope to see you all in Pittsburgh this year. We have our next two conference locations planned and hope to see everyone in Omaha, NE in 2027 and Louisville, KY in 2028.

As President, my top priority is to make our voice louder by growing our numbers. Growing our numbers starts with a plan to change the region numbers to balance out our board of directors. The membership committee has been working on a plan to redistrict our regions that we will vote on at our fall board meeting in Pittsburgh. The Board of Directors has voted to add an affiliate director's position so our affiliate partners can also have a voice on the UCOWF Board of Directors. Our updated Affiliate program will align us with other State organizations that have the same goals and vision as us; to educate those in power and make changes toward the betterment of these programs we work with every day.

In addition, I will continue supporting our Intergovernmental Board. They work extremely hard to promote UCOWF and our goals. They track upcoming federal policy changes and report them to our members. The board also submits excellent feedback on program integrity. Plus, they educate Congress as trusted experts on welfare fraud. I cannot thank them enough for their past, present, and future dedication.

The board voted and approved changes to the by-laws to make the treasurer and secretary positions two year term to help with continuity on the Executive Committee. These positions will be voted on in the years opposite of the presidential and vice presidential elections. I am excited to see what myself, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee can get done for UCOWF during that time. We are all united towards one goal and I welcome ideas, input, and your support towards our efforts to defend the integrity of public assistance programs and ensure the responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

Thank you again, and I look forward to working hard with the Board of Directors to continue promoting UCOWF's message.

Sincerely,

Keith Miskie

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2025-2026 was a monumental year for UCOWF and our continued growth toward better Education, Collaboration, and Advocacy for our members and partners.

Our Intergovernmental Board has solidified UCOWF as the premier source for information on program integrity and continues to be the face of advocacy for reforms in our government benefits' programs. Just a few months ago, past President and Intergovernmental Board co-chair, Dawn Royal, testified in front of the U.S. House of Representative's DOGE subcommittee on Oversight and Government Reform. Dawn had a simple message for members of the committee telling them that the time for diagnosis had passed. She testified that Congress has held hearings. GAO and inspectors general have issued reports. USDA has a SNAP Fraud Framework. Dawn emphasized that UCOWF has submitted detailed legislative recommendations to the House Budget Committee and immediate administrative recommendations to the White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud. She told the committee that the federal government cannot claim it does not know what the problems are or how to begin fixing them. Dawn emphasized to committee members that what's missing is action, accountability, and funding.

The testimony pointed out that Congress increased state fiscal responsibility for SNAP payment accuracy by attaching fiscal consequences to states with high improper payment rates. The House formed this Subcommittee, affirming Congressional priority and intent. The President created a government-wide Task Force to Eliminate Fraud. These are critical and important steps in the right direction, but they are not a complete fraud-control system. Little has been done to act on what was discussed and acknowledged. The House passed a Farm Bill to the Senate devoid of any reforms that address program integrity for retailers or recipients, kicking the can to 2031 before modernizations can be established to prevent pre-issuance improper payments.

That's a 15-year gap between the 2018 and 2031 Farm Bill. That is simply far too long to wait to react to every evolving fraud trend. In fact, removing Title IV Nutrition section from the Farm Bill should now be a Congressional priority to timely respond to programmatic threats. Meanwhile, enrollment fraud continues unabated, retailer trafficking continues to occur with an under-funded and understaffed Office of Inspector General. The National Accuracy Clearinghouse is still not in place, and the one created by the prior administration continues to flounder despite not being what Congress demanded in 2018.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONT.

Additionally, President Keith Miskie, Vice President Greg Mathews and our Intergovernmental Board chairs, Dawn Royal and Andy McClenahan, met with the White House Fraud Task Force in May 2026. During that meeting, UCOWF recommended executive actions to address program integrity issues across federal public assistance programs that do not rely on Congress such as: establishing and requiring minimum identity requirements in all federal programs, eliminate self-attestation, address dual enrollment, eliminate broad based categorical eligibility asking that CMS be required to issue regulations on Medicaid beneficiaries and mandate that CMS provide guidance on rescinded SMD #2405 to name just a few.

To help our members stay in touch, UCOWF has continued issuing the quarterly newsletter, and still holding the quarterly Fraud Call. The fraud call gives members a space to meet, discuss issues and emerging trends, and provide solutions to ongoing problems. The best way to stop fraud is to “Get Talking”, UCOWF’s motto and the best way to stop fraud that doesn’t recognize state borders.

UCOWF APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT FROM ITS MEMBERS, AFFILIATES, AND CORPORATE PARTNERS. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

WE ARE UNITED FOR INTEGRITY.

2025 - 2026 UCOWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Keith Miskie - NE
President

Greg Matthews - NC
Vice President

Andrew Petitt - WV
Treasurer

David Krasnow - CO
Secretary

Laura Lindsey - KS
Business Manager

Tommy Fowler - AR
Parliamentarian

PAST PRESIDENTS IN ADVISORY ROLE TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jack Heacock - FL

Dawn Royal - WY

Shelia Dorsett - NC

Ashley Wilkes - FL

Patrick Hallum - AR

Jana McDonough - NE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Region 1: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio

Terri Linehan - RI

Robyn Battle - NY

Zachary Bascelli - DE

Region 2: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands

Richard Carr - TN

Flo Brown - KY

Julie Baldwin - NC

Andy McClenahan - FL

Edgar Buster - WV

Region 3: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

Megan Kiefer - KS

Glenneta Stockdale - WI

Brian Anschutz - KS

Sheri Jackson - KS

Cicely McGlory - KS

Region 4: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico

Robbyn White - WY

Glenn Allen - CA

Mary Vasquez - CO

Michele Snyder - WY

Region 5: Alaska, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Provinces, Canada

Bradley Germann - ID

Sean Vaivao-Oliver - HI

One Year at Large Directors

Djwana Dixon - NJ

Heather Smith - MT

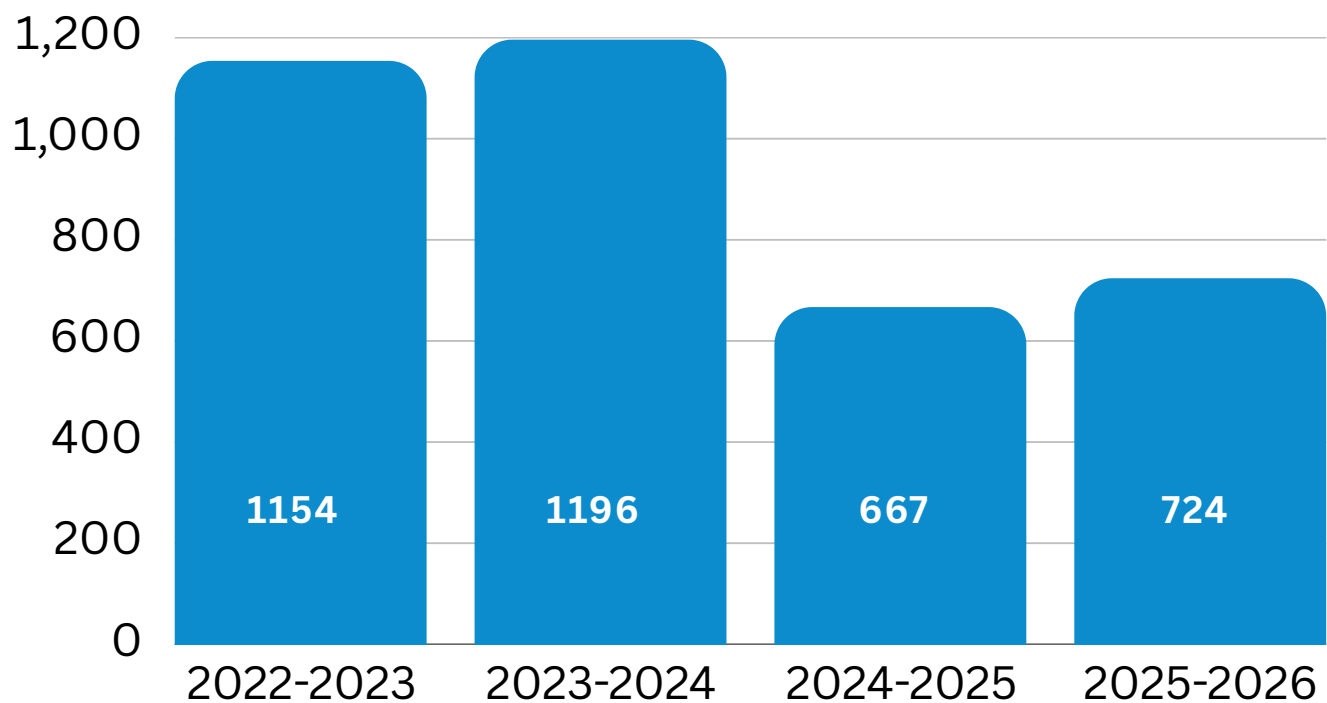
Melissa Williams - KY

BY THE NUMBERS: OVERVIEW OF 2025 - 2026

The Membership committee led by co-chairs, Djwana Dixon and Megan Kiefer have begun a nationwide membership drive.

Djwana and Megan have been contacting members who may have let their membership lapse or chose not renew. This is an ongoing process and the results will be brought back to the board to see what can be done to encourage our members to remain and get involved.

Membership Numbers by Year



Certified Welfare Fraud Investigators: 347

FEE INCREASES

In February 2026, the President's Advisory Board met in Orlando Florida. Part of the discussions revolved around the UCOWF Finances and the discussion led to when the CWFI Fees, Membership Fees and Corporate Partner Fees were last raised. For both the CWFI and Membership fees it was discovered it had been more than ten years since they were last raised. It was decided to take this to the board of directors.

At the spring 2026 board meeting, the board of directors voted to increase the CWFI annual fee from \$10.00 to \$25.00 and the cost of the CWFI exam to increase from \$50.00 to \$75.00.

At the same meeting the board of directors voted to increase the UCOWF Membership fee from \$45.00 to \$60.00.

The corporate partner fee was increased from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00.

UCOWF's goal is to operate in the most effective and efficient ways. To do that, every year, current operations are reviewed. UCOWF Finances continue to be are strong, and to better our member's experience, we have put money toward our Conference and website/portal. In January 2026, UCOWF signed a contract with Health Policy Source Inc., a company owned by Dan Boston to help UCOWF become more industry inclusive and nationally present. As we continue to identify items that will benefit our members, we will strategically use our funds to do so.

Operating Year	2024-2025	2025-2026
Checking Balance	\$95,247.71	\$79,184.19
Savings Balance	\$97,192.48	\$97,202.20
Total Revenue	\$192,440.19	\$176,386.39

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHANGES

This year brought significant transitions to the UCOWF Executive Committee. While we said goodbye to two deeply dedicated board members—former President Ashley Wilkes and former Secretary Megan Kiefer—we are thrilled to welcome two outstanding new leaders to the team. Following an encouraging wave of interest from our members and careful deliberation, Greg Matthews has been elected as our new Vice-President, and David Krasnow joins us as Secretary. Backed by the strong leadership of this new Executive Committee, we look forward to achieving great things in the year ahead.

BYLAWS UPDATES

UCOWF currently has five affiliate organizations. Ohio Council on Welfare Fraud (OCOWF), Colorado Welfare Fraud Council (CWFC) California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association (CWFIA) Minnesota Fraud Investigators Association (MFIA) and Wisconsin Fraud investigators.

At the spring 2026 Board of Directors meeting, the board voted to create an affiliate directors position. Each affiliate organization may select a representative to serve on the UCOWF Board of Directors. Affiliate Directors will be selected by the affiliate organization at their state conference.

Article III Membership, Section 2. Affiliate Membership. Affiliate membership shall be available to groups of members of government welfare fraud control organizations, as approved by the Board of Directors.

Affiliate Directors have voting privileges and will be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum at a meeting but will not be considered in the minimum number of members needed for a quorum.

Elections held at regional conferences shall be confirmed by the Board of Directors within ten (10) days from the elections.

Affiliate Director. Each affiliate organization may select a representative to serve on the UCOWF Board of Directors. Affiliate Directors will be selected by the affiliate organization at their state conference. Terms of Affiliate Directors will be two (2) years. Any person who is a current member of the affiliate organization, and who has been a member for the past year, shall be eligible for selection as an Any person who is a current member, and who has been a member for the past year, shall be eligible for election to the Board of Directors. Affiliate Directors have voting privileges and will be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum at a meeting but will not be considered in the minimum number of members needed for a quorum.

NOTABLE ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL MEDIA

To help get our message and factual insights regarding public assistance fraud out to our members and law makers, the United Council on Welfare Fraud, (UCOWF) uses its presence on LinkedIn and “X” to “...to help get our message across regarding the critical importance of safeguarding public assistance programs from waste, fraud and abuse.

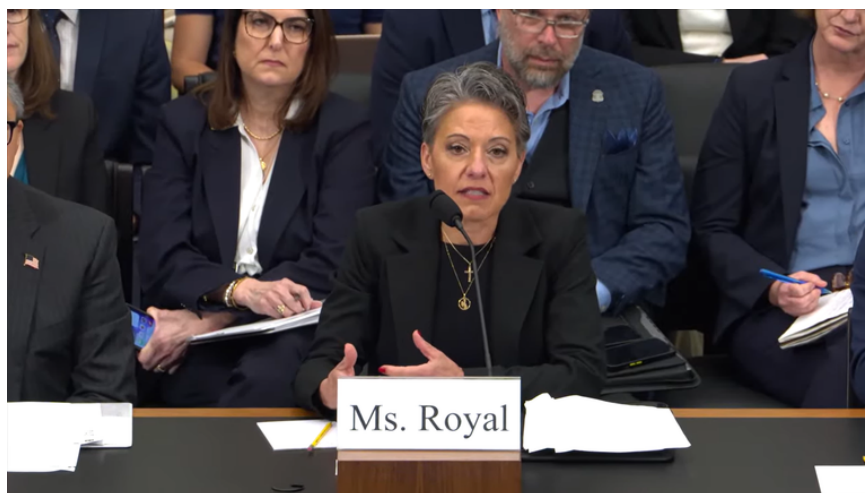
SITE SELECTION BOARD

In 2025/2026, the UCOWF Site Selection Board conducted two dedicated visits in Orlando, Florida as well as Louisville, Kentucky. The site selection board recommended the 2027 UCOWF Conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska and holding its 2028 UCOWF Training Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL BOARD 2025 - 2026

Amazing and incredible is all we can say. Our Intergovernmental Board, specifically the chairs Dawn Royal and Andrew McClenahan have made incredible strides for UCOWF in the last year.

In 2026, UCOWF has been in the media. Dawn Royal has testified in front of Congress, both have done interviews with news networks and Andy McClenahan has been out there advocating for UCOWF in podcasts and both readily make themselves available for the UCOWF quarterly fraud calls to help keep us all posted on upcoming legislation and make recommendations to the president when they feel UCOWF should respond.



INTERGOVERNMENTAL BOARD 2025 - 2026 CONT.

Since becoming the UCOWF President in September 2025, I've had many conversations with Dawn & Andy about UCOWF, what the Intergovernmental Board has done, what its currently doing and what we can do to make ourselves more nationally present and industry inclusive. We also spoke about what we can do as an organization to strengthen our visibility, influence & stature among key decision makers on Capitol Hill, the Executive Branch and relevant stake holders.

After discussions with the UCOWF Board of Directors, the decision was made to hire Dan Boston President & CEO of Health Policy Source. Dan is a Washington DC advocate who has consistently been recognized as one of the top advocate's. He is skilled at navigating Congress and the Agencies in various political climates because he has built deep relationships over the last several years.

The strategic value of this new partnership and moving forward with this contract can help UCOWF overcome what appears to be a stagnant phase by instead of relying solely on the availability of individual board members, you will have a dedicated presence in DC to monitor legislative cycles 24/7.

Since January Of 2026, Dan has arranged several meetings with Congressional staffers, CMS and the White House Fraud Task Force.

The Intergovernmental Board is regularly receiving updates from the Federal Register as it relates to SNAP and other government programs, and providing comments on those we feel affect our members. This committee's actions, led by co-chairs Dawn and Andy, have made unbelievable strides for UCOWF as an organization and will continue to do so as we move into the future under a new administration.

As our UCOWF Intergovernmental Board continued getting tapped to provide their subject matter expert take on the current state of the welfare program, more opportunities to do so began popping up. Co-Chair Andrew McClenahan was asked to appear on The Drill Down, a podcast for the Government Accountability Institute. Andy spoke with Peter Schweizer and Eric Eggers about the waste, fraud, and abuse in government.



UCOWF NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

UCOWF's 52nd National Training Conference was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the Hyatt Regency from August 26 – 28, 2025.

An incredible job was done by Conference co-chairs Keith Miskie, Megan Kiefer and David Krasnow and their committee. Many don't see all the effort it takes to put on a Conference of this size.

The keynote address was given by Tony Bryan, Inspector General, Oklahoma's DHS. The Conference committee also brought in experts in the field, like Jennifer Tiller, who is now the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary and Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. UCOWF members had the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion with Intergovernmental co-chairs. The UCOWF agenda included over a dozen additional workshops and presentations which included social media investigations, investigations through legislation, employee fraud and how to succeed in your ADH which attendees provided excellent feedback on.

Not only did members come and learn at this training, but we also celebrated those that do great things in their field and those that do great things for UCOWF as an organization.

Each year UCOWF presents the Dorothy Forney Memorial Award at the annual training conference. The Dorothy Forney Memorial Award is the highest honor conferred on an individual or organization by UCOWF. UCOWF was happy to present the 2025 Dorothy Forney award to Dawn Royal, Investigator with the State of Wyoming. UCOWF was able to have Karen Ludwick, who worked with Dorothy Forney give the award to Ms. Royal.

In the Spring of 2021, a motion was formally introduced to the UCOWF Board of Directors to establish a new award that recognized members who contributed their time, effort, skills, and talents to UCOWF in a manner above and beyond what is expected of UCOWF members and directors. The motion was unanimously approved, allowing the Executive Committee to select up to three individuals per year worthy of recognition for their exemplary service to UCOWF.

At the 2025 UCOWF Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma UCOWF recognized Glenn Allen and Sheila Dorsett for their contributions behind the scenes.

UCOWF NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE PICTURES



MEMBERSHIP TIER SYSTEM

UCOWF's Board of Directors has worked hard to revamp and reevaluate our member tier system. After some changes to the structure in the last few years, the Board found a way to best reach our target audiences of membership.

TRADITIONAL

Our Traditional Member tier has not changed – it is still for our regular members that want a members-only registration fee, ability to apply and take the Certified Welfare Fraud Investigators (CWFI) exam, and added benefits, like access to the member portal, where the Active Member Directory and Newsletter exist. One add-on to our Traditional Member benefits give access for attendance on the quarterly UCOWF Fraud Call.

AFFILIATE

This is for our state or regional organizations who share a similar mission to UCOWF. To spread awareness and education of the fraud, waste, and abuse occurring in our public assistance programs. Our Affiliates have the opportunity to promote their organization or members in our quarterly Newsletter and have the ability to promote any of the organization's upcoming events. The organization will also have their logo on UCOWF's website and acknowledgement in the Annual Report. For individual members of that organization, they will also receive a 10% discount on Traditional Member rates.

CORPORATE PARTNER

This membership is for vendors or organizations that share UCOWF's mission and support UCOWF at our National Training Conferences. Corporate Partner's will receive a free vendor/exhibitor table at our Conference that year, will have their organization's logo on UCOWF's website, and will be acknowledged in UCOWF's Annual Report. For individual members of that vendor or organization, they will also receive a 15% discount on Traditional Member rates.

Why You Should Join

Enhance your knowledge, expand your skills, and advance your career with exclusive educational opportunities from UCOWF.



Membership is available to professionals responsible for preventing, detecting, investigating, and prosecuting welfare fraud, as well as identifying and recovering benefit payments issued as a result of fraud or intentional program violations.

We offer three distinct membership tiers, each thoughtfully designed to support your objectives and advance your work in the field of welfare fraud investigation.



Membership Tiers

<u>TIER</u>	<u>ANNUAL DUES</u>
TRADITIONAL	\$60
AFFILIATE	\$350
CORPORATE	\$1,500

Discover the perks of every membership tier!
Scan the QR code to explore our Membership Benefits page and find the membership that's right for you.



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UCOWF

EST. 1971



THE UNITED COUNCIL ON WELFARE FRAUD

United for Integrity.
Driven by Purpose.

www.UCOWF.net

Who We Are

We are a network of investigators, administrators, and specialists from local, state, and federal agencies across the United States and Canada, working collaboratively to combat fraud and abuse in social services programs.

Our goal is to equip members with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to identify, investigate, prosecute, and recover fraud within these programs.

We are the only national membership organization in the welfare program integrity space with such a broad and diverse membership base, enabling faster information sharing and fostering deeper expertise across the field.



What We Do

The United Council on Welfare Fraud is the leading membership association dedicated exclusively to preserving the integrity of public assistance programs. Through collaboration, professional development, and advocacy, we provide industry professionals with the resources needed to strengthen program accountability and effectiveness.

We are committed to protecting honest citizens whose tax contributions help sustain vital welfare programs, while also ensuring that our neighbors in need continue to receive the support they deserve.

We work to ensure everyone is protected from those who seek to exploit vulnerabilities within federal assistance eligibility processes and programs.



How We Do It

TRAINING

Be empowered to do your best work with access to the most current information, expert guidance, and trusted resources available.

UCOWF National Conferences keep members informed on the latest developments in fraud prevention, detection, and investigation while fostering meaningful connections and strengthening professional networks.

COLLABORATION

We connect individuals to a structure of support across regions, offering the benefits of strong personal connections and camaraderie while also providing timely aid and vital information to investigators and eligibility workers. Our Member Portal helps you locate members in all 50 states and U.S. Territories.

UCOWF members actively promote policies that strengthen the prosecution of fraud and waste in public assistance programs.



ADVOCACY



ADVOCACY

AFFILIATES



Wisconsin
Department of
Health and
Services



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR AFFILIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
AND CORPORATE PARTNERS, WHO SHARE AND SUPPORT UCOWF'S
MISSION OF EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY FOR INTEGRITY IN OUR
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

CORPORATE PARTNERS



TRACKLIGHT



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SUMMATION

The United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF) acts as a primary guardian of public funds by empowering professionals, offering advanced certifications and advocating for national policy change.

Core Mission & Support

- **Guard Public Funds:** Helps state and federal administrators protect resources meant for vulnerable citizens.
- **National Policy Voice:** Comments on proposed federal rule changes and pending welfare legislation.
- **Legislative Advocacy:** Conducts annual visits to lawmakers to share facts, experiences, and anti-fraud advice.

Professional Development & Training

- **Skill-Specific Training:** Delivers unique education tailored strictly to the evolving demands of fraud investigation.
- **Industry Certifications:** Provides professional testing to validate technical proficiency and industry expertise.
- **Career Growth:** Launching an advanced Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator (CWFI) exam to boost professional credibility.