



2024 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Ensure adequate funding and equitable access to public resources for Greater Hartford residents, nonprofits, and small businesses in the region.

- Identify and promote opportunities for public-private partnerships to support funding, services, capacity building, and systems coordination.
- Support community engagement and organizing efforts to ensure resident voice in policy and budget allocation decision-making.

Influence data-informed deployment of unobligated ARPA funds and other state funding opportunities to our region.

Increase access to information that helps policymakers and policy influencers understand and address community needs and barriers to equitable social and economic mobility.

- Support use of 2023 Greater Hartford Community Wellbeing Index and 2023 Greater Hartford Equity Report highlighting disparities in access to opportunity for the region's Black and Latine and other residents of color and marginalized populations.
- Promote and share learning from our grantmaking on community with policymakers to inform public programming and allocation of resources

Ensure Connecticut meets its state government obligations to provide adequate public funding and to improve access to public safety net systems for residents that data show struggle to meet basic needs.

- Reduce food insecurity, including increasing access to healthy food choices.
- Increase homeless diversion and efforts to enhance best practices and coordination among providers and across systems.
- Increase physical and mental health services for low-income residents, focusing on health equity to improve health outcomes and emotional well-being for people of color and other marginalized and underserved populations.

RELATED WORK

Continued to build relationships with state agency leaders and public-private organizations and participate in forums to share Hartford Foundation strategic priorities and perspective on issues.

In collaboration with [DataHaven](#), [The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven](#), and [Fairfield County's Community Foundation](#), the Foundation hosted a convening to unveil the results from the latest regional editions of the Community Wellbeing Index at the State Capitol. The audience included legislators, legislative staff, and representatives from the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors.

RELATED WORK

Grantmaking:

[DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey](#), [Greater Hartford Community Town Equity Report](#), [Wellbeing Index](#), and [Connecticut](#)

RELATED WORK

Supportive Testimony:

[Senate Bill 145, An Act Appropriating Funds for the Homeless Response System](#)

[Senate Bill 143, An Act Concerning Eviction for Cause](#)

[House Bill 5510, An Act Concerning Funding for School Meals](#)

Increase employment opportunities for Black and Latine residents

- Expand access to education, job-training, and employment opportunities for residents with low income and low skills.
- Increase career exposure, internships, and employment for youth, with a focus on the Alliance Districts.
- Promote policies to reduce high chronic absenteeism among Black and Latine students and increase high school completion.
- Increase post-secondary degree and credential completion by Black and Latine students.
- Remove barriers to education, job training and employment including expanding eligibility for state supported childcare and access to workforce transportation.
- Support expansion of Pledge to Advance CT (PACT) tuition-free community college and post-secondary scholarships and internships.

Increase the number of Hartford residents living in high opportunity neighborhoods in Hartford and the region.

- Increase state investments that support the quality of housing in the City of Hartford.
- Eliminate structural barriers to low-income residents' access to quality, affordable housing in higher opportunity neighborhoods in the region.
- Sponsor and distribute research to educate lawmakers on the need for increased state support of affordable housing development, as well as rental and homeownership assistance.
- Promote greater state investment in low-income communities in Greater Hartford

Increase public resources to advance cross-outcome portfolio work that address critical local issues informed by data and community perspectives including efforts to:

- Advance anti-poverty strategies and systems change (e.g., Child Tax Credit/Earned Income Tax Credit, Baby Bonds, Direct Cash Assistance Programs, Benefits Cliff reform)
- Increase opportunities for policies to be informed by justice-system impacted youth and families.
- Prevent rolling back the state's national model juvenile justice reforms enacted over the past several years.
- Promote adequate state funding of pre-release and post-release services to address successful return to community from incarceration and remove barriers to education, training and employment.

RELATED WORK

Supportive Testimony:

[House Bill 5213, An Act Concerning Disconnected Youth](#)

[House Bill 5239, An Act Expanding the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program](#)

[Senate Bill 108, An Act Requiring a Study of Transportation Barriers That Limit Access to Workforce Development Programs](#)

RELATED WORK

Supportive Testimony:

[Senate Bill 6, An Act Concerning Housing](#)

[House Bill 5390, An Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities](#)

[Appropriations Subcommittee Testimony in Support of Additional Funding for State Rental Assistance Program](#)

Grantmaking:

[In November, the Foundation awarded \\$175,000 to support housing policy and advocacy.](#)

RELATED WORK

Supportive Testimony:

[House Bill 5369, An Act Concerning a Benefits Cliff Pilot](#)
(joint testimony with Fairfield's Community Foundation and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven)

[House Bill 5127, An Act Requiring a Needs Assessment for the Delivery of Postsecondary Education Programs in Prisons](#)

[CT Department of Social Services' Federal Medicaid demonstration waiver application to implement a Justice Involved Re-entry Initiative.](#)

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