



2018 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

COMMUNITY NONPROFITS: ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Connecticut's fiscal challenges threaten the health and well-being of the half a million people and families who depend on these programs. Each year, a larger percentage of the state budget is tied up with "fixed costs". That – combined with projections of future budget shortfalls – means **community nonprofits face an uncertain future unless programs for the people they serve are seen as just as essential and necessary as costs considered to be "fixed."**

After years of tight budgets, more cuts in funding to community nonprofits mean fewer services for the people who depend on them and will lead to job losses for those providing care. Our State's most at-risk citizens in need will have nowhere to turn and communities will experience a lower quality-of-life in the absence of cultural programs. The Alliance's Public Policy Agenda includes proposals that save the state money while allowing individuals and families to live productively in the community and contribute to making Connecticut a great place to live and work.

ADDRESS THE CRISIS IN FUNDING FOR NONPROFIT SERVICES

- **Protect state budget funding for essential community services.** Nonprofit programs are cost effective. They save lives and keep people out of expensive emergency rooms, nursing homes, the streets, and the criminal justice system.
- **Nonprofits save the State money that can be used to help more people.** The State should continue to convert more expensive state-run services into more efficient and high-quality services provided by community nonprofits. Nonprofit services are significantly less costly than state-run programs. The money saved should be re-invested to provide care for people in need.
- **Make the State-nonprofit relationship more efficient** by implementing recommendations in the report of the Licensure and Certification Work Group and use this process as a model for other service enhancements.

INVEST IN COMMUNITIES

- **Restore the scheduled increase in the annual cap of \$10 million for the Neighborhood Assistance Act.**
- **Expand and implement the Innovation Incentive Program.** If a State agency determines that a provider has complied with contractual and other service delivery requirements, allow the provider to retain any savings and use the savings to continue providing needed services.
- **Establish adequate rates and flexibility for services reimbursable under Medicaid.**
- **Restore 1% portion of bond proceeds for art work in state building projects.** Art and culture contribute to the economy, help maintain our quality-of-life and make Connecticut a better place to live and do business.