



2019 Public Policy Agenda

Community Nonprofits: More Efficient Services and A Better Quality-of-Life

Community nonprofits improve our quality of life, making Connecticut a better place to live and work. Nonprofits feed the hungry, house the homeless, support people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, treat people with mental health and substance abuse needs, and provide arts and culture that make our communities vibrant. Nonprofits also employ thousands of people in towns and cities across the state.

Community nonprofits deliver high-quality, cost-effective services in a way that is a model for restructuring the way the State provides services for its residents.

State leaders must decide: either keep the expensive status quo and serve fewer people or change the system and serve more people in need. Community nonprofits can reduce state costs and meet the demand for services *if* state leaders take the necessary steps.

1. Protect and fully fund essential community services.

- Maintain grant funding and maximize federal reimbursement under the Medicaid program by establishing adequate rates and flexibility for nonprofit services.
- Implement and expand the Innovation Incentive Program to allow nonprofits that demonstrate efficiencies to retain savings and provide more services.
- Authorize bond funding each year of the biennium for the Nonprofit Grant Program that supports capital improvements which enhance service delivery.
- Calculate cost-of-living adjustments for community nonprofits based on the total contract amount.
- Maintain funding for arts and cultural nonprofits which enhance Connecticut's quality-of-life and make Connecticut an attractive place to live and do business.

2. Convert expensive State-run services to more efficient, high-quality services provided by community nonprofits rather than the present, redundant dual system.

- Re-invest savings achieved through conversion of Intellectual/Developmental Disability and Behavioral Health services into the community service delivery system.
- Ensure fair and efficient practices and standards in state contracting, licensing, and auditing.
- Support collaborative efforts between nonprofits and the State, including (i) continuing the Governor's Cabinet on Nonprofit Health and Human Services and (ii) basing state-nonprofit partnerships on the model used by the Licensure and Certification Work Group.

3. Protect nonprofit tax exemptions to ensure their funds are used for services.

- Clarify statutes to protect charitable property tax exemptions. Nonprofits reduce costs by providing services and programs so that government doesn't have to.

Guiding Principles

State policy should promote the respect, dignity and worth of all Connecticut residents, ensuring equal opportunity and inclusivity.

