

Modernize and streamline the health and human service delivery system

- ▶ Clarify legislative intent for the Innovation Incentive Program & include the Judicial Branch.
This program ends “cost settlement” of contracts, allows nonprofits to retain funds and serve more people, and has been supported by the legislature in the past.
- ▶ Convert state-operated services into the community and re-invest the savings into the continuum of care. Thousands of state employees retired in 2022, providing a once-in-a-generation chance to make real, structural change in the behavioral health and I/DD systems.
- ▶ Authorize \$25 million in annual bond funding for the Nonprofit Grant Program.
Work with the Administration to make those funds available for nonprofits.
- ▶ Increase rates annually with the cost of inflation.
Require the periodic review of rates to ensure access to services.
- ▶ Modernize the contracting and siting laws for community services.
Repeal antiquated laws restricting facility locations and nonprofit boards of directors, to ensure on-time payment for services, and remove duplicative state contract requirements.

Increase funding for community nonprofits to keep up with inflation

The legislature should increase funding by 9% (\$261 million) in FY24 and 7% (\$221 million) in FY25. After the biennium, they should index future nonprofit funding to inflation.

Community nonprofits are 46% behind where they were in 2007. During the last biennium, the legislature stepped up and provided two cost of living adjustments to nonprofits. But over the last two years, nonprofits have been hit by historic 16% inflation, which has entirely consumed the gains of the last biennium.

The state budget is healthier than ever – yet nonprofits continue to be in crisis, with an unprecedented workforce shortage, increased essential costs, and skyrocketing demand for community services. We can finally afford to solve this problem.

Stabilize & sustain the nonprofit workforce

- Expand grace periods to get licensed and freeze testing requirements that discriminate against clinicians of color, ensuring people entering the clinical workforce can do so seamlessly after graduation.
- Provide options to help nonprofits offer affordable, quality healthcare to their staff.
- Provide student loan relief for people who have dedicated their careers to supporting Connecticut’s most vulnerable, and eliminate barriers to higher education for people who intend to enter the nonprofit workforce.

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Nonprofits are community. They improve our quality of life, making Connecticut a better place to live and work. Among other things, nonprofits support people with intellectual/ developmental disabilities, treat people with mental health and substance abuse needs, feed the hungry, house people experiencing homelessness, and provide arts and culture that make our communities vibrant.

115,000 Connecticut taxpayers (7% of the workforce) work for community nonprofits and they invest billions in our economy.

