

Strengthen & sustain the nonprofit workforce

Nonprofits employ 115,000 people across Connecticut – 7% of the workforce!

- Increase funding for nonprofits so they can recruit and retain a quality workforce.
- 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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Legislative Agenda

Increase funding for community nonprofits to keep up with inflation.

The legislature should **increase funding by 5% in FY25**, after providing \$50 million to health and human service providers that did not receive DDS-specific bonus funds in the FY24 Budget, a **total increase of \$186 million**. The increase should include Medicaid rates. After the biennium, the legislature should index future nonprofit funding to inflation.

Community nonprofits are 32% behind where they were in 2007. Over the last three years, the legislature stepped up and provided cost of living adjustments to nonprofits. But inflation has consumed these gains. It is why nonprofits need legislators to continue their plan for annual increases. 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 and streamline the health and human service delivery system

- **Increase rates annually with the cost of inflation.**
Each year of inflation without rate increases is a step back. Now, with the minimum wage automatically increasing every year, nonprofits lose ground without a similar annual increase.
- **Modernize the state contracting system for nonprofits.**
Review the Purchase of Services system and reform antiquated or duplicative requirements, repeal unnecessary laws restricting nonprofit boards of directors, allow Community Health Workers and Peer Support Specialists to bill Medicaid, and update the DSS Room & Board rates.
- **Create insurance options so nonprofits can pool risk.**
Nonprofits are facing a liability, property/vehicle and cyber insurance crisis, with skyrocketing costs, threats of coverage drops, renewal demands counter to their missions.
- **Authorize \$25 million in annual bond funding for the Nonprofit Grant Program.**
This program helps nonprofits with capital expenditures to improve facilities.
- **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 structural change in the behavioral health and I/DD systems.

Guiding Principles

Nonprofits are community. They improve our quality of life, making Connecticut a better place to live and work. 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.

Nonprofits serve more than 500,000 people across the state, employ more than 115,000 Connecticut taxpayers (7% of the workforce), and invest billions in our economy.

