

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.

Contact

Gian-Carl Casa

President and CEO Cell: 203-804-6901 Email: gcasa@ctnonprofitalliance.org

Ben Shaiken

Director of Government Relations Cell: 860-944-8827 Email: bshaiken@ctnonprofitalliance.org

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-ageneration 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.

BASIC NEEDS

Programs like
heating assistance, food
donations, housing, and
job training reduce
poverty and promote
self-sufficiency for CT
families.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Nonprofits exist for the public good and are committed to ensuring equal treatment and access to services for all.

ENDING SHOMELESSNESS

The continuum of services for people experiencing homelessness should be robust and sustainable.

ARTS & CULTURE

Support and sustain nonprofit arts and culture organizations, which create jobs, increase tourism and add value and vibrancy to all communities.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS & COVERAGE

Every resident should have quality, affordable health care that gives them access to the community services they need.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Invest in existing services and reduce the waiting list, so everyone who is entitled to supports can get them.

NONPROFITS MAKE CT COMPETITIVE

Grow CT by investing in human services. People value communities that support those in need and the people that care for them.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mental health and addiction services should be accessible and funded to cover costs, including reimbursement from commercial payers.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Access to safe, affordable housing strengthens communities and is desperately needed by nonprofit clients and staff.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Ensure robust early intervention, behavioral health, residential, child welfare, juvenile justice, and education services.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Expand the array of community justice services available to support the state's efforts to reform the criminal justice system.